MY STORIES

TRUE TESTIMONIES OF THE GREATNESS OF GOD

By: Sandy Haga
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Dedication

I want to dedicate this book first of all to my husband, Jim Haga. I appreciate him. He has been an important part of my life for over 39 years. I thank God for putting us together.

I also want to dedicate it to those who have been faithful to serve in New Life Church and Ministries through the years. I have been a part of this ministry for nearly 40 years but there are others who have been a part longer than me. I especially want to mention Bishop Goad's daughter, Suzanne. She has been a part of the ministry more or less since she was born. Except for a brief time when she was a teenager she has worked for the ministry. After Bishop Goad's death, she has taken over a leadership position and God is directing her and anointing her. She has been a good friend for a lot of years. Also, I want to thank Matthew Goad, her son, who is a faithful helper. Also, thanks to William Goad who is a living picture of the grace of God.

Much appreciation to Chris Mullins who has been my mentor for many years. Also to Frank Jennings who has been a light to me for a bunch of years. Thanks, too, goes to Donna Cramer who has been a help to the school and a good friend for many years. Appreciation also goes to the Barr and Compton family who are a backbone in our church. Also, to Linda Goad who is a prayer warrior. Thanks also goes to all of those who have helped with the school or college or ministry in any way. We can't name all of you here, but we recognize and appreciate all of you. You are in our hearts.

Introduction

One of the greatest things that we can pass on to the next generation (whether that be the next generation in terms of the next physical generation -the family that comes after us, or the next spiritual generation- the new generation of God's family, the new ones receiving salvation) is our stories, our testimonies, our accounts of how we have seen God work in our lives. These stories, these testimonies can help build their faith as they hear or read what God has done for us. I often tell young people (and older ones) my stories to illustrate something that I am presenting to them.

I didn't realize though the power that our testimonies have to build people's faith and to build their relationship with the Lord. That is until two of the students in our Christian Academy made me aware of this. I want to dedicate this book to them because they inspired me to write it. Kailey and Emma Crigger are two students who have been in our Christian school for over 8 years. They have heard a lot of my testimonies. Sometimes when I would start to tell them my stories I would think to myself that they have probably heard this a hundred times.

I didn't realize the effect that my stories, my testimonies, had on them until they told me how much they love to hear them. Even if they had heard them a hundred times. They told me how my stories had encouraged their faith and how it encouraged them to

have a closer relationship with God. They told me that through the stories they got a closer look at what God was like and what He would do for them. It made me realize how important it is to share your stories, your testimonies of what God has done in your life. Joel 1:3 talks about this. "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."

I want to say this over and over. I call these my stories, but they are not just made up stories. Every story that I tell in this book is an absolutely true story. These are from nearly 40 years of serving the Lord and some are from even longer ago. This is not a fiction book. It is a true book. The Bible is not a fiction book. It is an absolutely true book. It has some amazing things in it that seem to defy logic. God is an amazing God and He absolutely defies logic. He doesn't function in our realm. He has a realm all of His own. It is an eternal realm and He fills it. That is how big He is.

When you think of what God is able to do, there are no limits. The only thing that He can't do is go against our free will. If we refuse to accept His Son, if we refuse to walk with Him, if we refuse to obey Him and yield to Him, there is not much He can do for us because we don't allow Him to. When you read my true stories I have written here, you might think "no way could that happen". Matthew 19:26 says, "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them,

With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." With God ALL things are possible.

The only way that you can walk with God and see His miracles happen in your own life is if you accept the gift He has given you which is His Son. God sent Jesus to die so that you can be saved, so that you can find eternal life with Him in a perfect place that He has made for His children. To be saved, you ask Jesus to come into your heart. You repent of your sins. That means that you are sorry for what you have done. You ask Him to forgive you of your sins. He died to do just that, so He will. You give your heart and your life to Him. That is the beginning of a whole new world and a whole new way of life.

When you do this, the Bible will become real to you and you will understand it more than you have ever been able to before. Why? Because the author of it is living in your heart. As the Bible becomes real, you will know that it isn't just a book of fairy tales, a book of made up stories. You will know that you know that you know that it is real. And you will know that God can do miraculous things in your life. Then one day you will be telling stories of your own. AMEN.

One of the greatest things that you can give young Christians is testimonies of what God has done in your life and in the lives of those you know. Even if you think you've told them a hundred times, keep telling them. Your testimonies bring the Bible to life

as you tell how it became real when you stepped out in faith to obey God. Your testimonies make God real to them as they hear what He has done in your life to enable you to serve God, to protect you, to provide for you. When they hear of church services you were in when the Spirit of God moved, when they hear how God's Spirit brought you victory, they know that these things can happen in their lives as well. When they hear testimonies of how God healed you and others that you know, it encourages them to believe for their own healing. When they hear testimonies of how God's love and grace were so real, they get a glimpse of what God will be for them.

Tell your stories. Tell your testimonies of what God has done for you. Don't let the devil tell you that no one wants to hear them. Don't let him tell you that it won't help anyone if you tell them. Tell them. Plus the other side of this is what you receive when you tell your testimonies. Revelations 10:10-11a says, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony…." This scripture tells us that one of the things that help us overcome is our testimonies of what God has done for us.

When you hear true things about how God has moved for others, it encourages your faith. We read in I John 5:4, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” Faith is what gives us power to overcome the world. It gives us the victory over the things that are seen because we are able to look instead to the things that are unseen, to the things of God. Your faith will grow as you read the Bible. Your faith will grow as you hear testimonies about what God has done for others. You will know that because He loves all of His children He will do the same for you.

There is another reason why I am writing this book. Sometimes authors will write about the wonderful things that they have done. They do that so that others will think they are great. That is definitely not the reason why I am writing this. When you read my stories, you will see my weaknesses, the stupid things I’ve done, how without God’s help I am not able to get out of the rain as the old saying goes. You will see my weaknesses. But at the same time you see my weaknesses you will see how God in His love and grace causes my weaknesses to become great strength. His strength. Then you will know how God can become your strength as well. That is why I am writing my stories. So that you will see how God will enable you to do what He calls you to do so that you will march out in faith to obey Him. Then you will have stories of your own.

One of my favorite passages is 1 Corinthians 1:26-30. “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

This scripture reminds me that God is not looking for the strong, the best, the smartest, the wisest, or the holiest. This scripture reminds me that He is not looking for those that are perfect. But He is looking for the foolish, the weak, the base. He is looking for those that will not march on in their own strength, in their own perfection. He is looking for those that will say, “Lord I can’t do much. I am weak. But God I know that you can be my strength. I don’t have many talents and gifts, but God I am willing to obey you. I know that you will be my gifts and talents. I am not very smart or wise. But God I know that you will enable me to do all that you call me to do. And God as we go, I will give you the glory, because I know that if it weren’t for you I would not be able to do

anything." That is how to get God's attention. That is how to do great things for Him.

There is another reason why I am writing my stories. When I grew up, I didn't hear about how God did miracles. It wasn't until later in my life that I learned how God could heal. I didn't hear about how God could lead you. I didn't hear a lot about how God moved with His Spirit in church services setting people free and healing them. The people around me didn't share things like that. They didn't tell their stories. So when I came to the Lord I didn't know the miraculous things that He could do. I didn't know what He could do and I didn't know that He would do them for me.

Sometimes we settle for things in our Christian life because we fail to see that we don't have to settle for less. If you don't know that God can grow spaghetti, or put food on your front porch, then you don't expect Him to do these things. If you don't know God can and will heal you, that divine healing is your right as a child of God, then you don't expect to be healed. If you don't know that He loves you enough to protect you, then you won't expect it. If you don't know that God will enable you to do the things that He calls you to do, then when God calls you, you won't obey Him.

If you don't know that God can give you an extraordinary life, then you will just settle for the ordinary. That is another reason why I am writing this

book. I pray that through these pages you find that you don't have to settle for the ordinary, but you can reach to the supernatural. I can truly say that as times get harder you won't be able to survive if all you have is what you yourself can do. But if you reach to the supernatural, you will not only survive, but you will overcome with victory.

I can say that what grew my faith the most was going through hard times. A good definition of faith is this acronym, F-forsaking A-all I-I T-trust H-Him. Faith is forsaking all I trust Him. When the mountain is so high that you are facing and you can't even go the first mile, then is when you begin to have faith. When the storm is so great that it is threatening to wipe you off of the face of the earth, then is when you have faith.

As long as you can do it yourself, there is no need for faith. It is the storms, the mountains, the trials, the battles that grow your faith because you can't rely on yourself, but you have to rely on God. One of the best definitions of faith that I have heard is a quote from St. Augustine who was a preacher, theologian, and a writer. In his writing he wrote this definition of faith. "Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." Faith is the key to unlock all of the blessings of God.

If you lack faith, ask God and He will increase your faith. He might do that by increasing the trials so that

you have to rely on Him. And then you will have stories of your own to tell, testimonies of the greatness of God.

It seems like our ministry has had a battle of some sort for many years. I have learned through the years that the devil can see things that are coming up ahead of you. He saw ahead of our ministry and saw what we would one day do and be. He hated that, and hated us and has done everything he could to stop us. He didn't think though about how God uses everything to work out for our good. The more he fought us, the stronger we grew, and the more our faith grew.

Looking back, I can say that I thank God for the battles. We have learned to trust God. Faith grows in desperation. When you are desperately clinging to the raft because the waves are so high, then you will have to have faith to be able to stand. I thank God for all of those times when I had nothing but Him. And through it all I have learned that He was enough. AMEN.

I want to share with you a battle that I have been going through as I am writing this book. One of our school students, a 12 year old, found out that he had a huge tumor around his heart. It was Lymphoma t-cell cancer. That is a really bad kind of cancer. One day we had great news. God had healed him. His tumor was completely and totally gone and this was confirmed by astounded doctors. They knew that God

had healed him. It didn't just gradually shrink but totally disappeared in an instant. It was miracle. Just weeks after that he died. He had gotten staph infection in his medi-port.

I don't mind telling you, this shook my faith. It shook my relationship with God. Everything I knew about Him was shaken. I couldn't see how this could be God at all. But I was just looking at it from my earthly perspective. In the middle of this, God led me to write a book to comfort his family and friends. I didn't feel like writing this, but I obeyed God.

You see, when I had a battle with my faith, I didn't run away from God. I felt like it. There was a little part of me that felt like giving up. But I knew one thing. I knew that without Him I would not be able to make it in this crazy world. I knew that I didn't want to find out what that would be like. I also knew that I love Him with my whole heart and when you love someone you don't quit on them. I knew that His love is a true love and His Word and His promises are true.

I knew from walking with Him for many, years that He would show me what had happened and why. I trusted Him even if He didn't show me. But even though He owes me no explanation (because He can do what He wants to because He is God), I know that often He will show me about what happened and He'll show me why. I knew through my battles, even

because of them, I have learned to trust Him. As I wrote this book He revealed answers to me that restored my faith. That book is simply titled *Death.* You can find it on Amazon.com, or free on my website www.freechristianonlinebooks.com. I would not have gotten the faith that I needed to face this if I hadn't gone through the battles and the storms.

I was getting up from all of this when I had more bad news. One of our students in our school was shot in the chest in what we think was an accidental shooting. The bullet missed her heart by a fraction of an inch and went down through her liver, her spleen, her stomach and colon. Even while I am writing this, she is fighting for her life, but she is slowly winning. This has been another battle with my faith.

On the morning that I am writing this section of this chapter, I have been going through a terrible war inside of me. Now there is something lately that Jesus does when I go through a battle. My favorite scriptures are those that show Him to be our shepherd our protector, our lover of our souls. He started showing me his arm, his sleeve. In the scriptures Jesus wears royal garments of fine cloth. But when he showed me His arm, it had on it a rough, hand-woven garment like the kind of garment a shepherd would wear. The first time that He did this and every time since, He showed me His arm and it reached around me and He held me close. My Shepherd has me in His arms drawing me close. In the battles of

life, He does not let go of me even when I feel like letting go of Him because I just can't see the why's. My Shepherd wil keep me until I make heaven my home as long as I stay in those precious arms. This is what your Shepherd is like, and this is what He will do for you. He will draw you close in His arms.

On the morning that I am writing this part of this chapter, I could feel my faith shredding. The devil was pouncing on me at this time when I was weakest. God told me to start writing on my book. I began to write and as I read part of this book and wrote, my faith was renewed. I felt His Shepherd arms reaching around me and I began to cry. I wept out the battle. I was able to do this because I began to remember the battles and the storms that we have gone through and how He has kept me through them all.

The Bible says this in Psalms 103:2, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." That is so important to do. Don't forget the things that God has done for you. Don't forget the miracles that He does for you whether they are big miracles or if they are the little ones that get you through from day to day. Write them down so that you don't forget them. Keep a miracle notebook so that you can write them down. Don't forget those things. When you go through battles of your own, these will encourage your faith.

I have divided my stories into chapters. Stories about how God worked His plan and purpose in my life I have put in a chapter called *God's Plan*. This can remind you that God has a plan for your life. Stories about how God enabled me to do what He called me to do I put in a chapter called *God's Enabling*. This will remind you of how God will enable you to do things that he calls you to do. Stories about how God provided for me in miraculous ways I put in a chapter called *God's Provisions*. This will encourage your faith to believe that God will provide for you as well.

I have stories about how God protected me, how God's mercy and grace moved, how He brought victory when it seemed all would be lost. I have stories about how God healed me and others that I know. How God's Spirit moved in services I have been in. All these will encourage your faith to believe and help you to be able to see how God can move in your life. Then you will have stories of your own to pass on to others. I want to say again that every story that I have told whether it be my testimonies, or testimonies of others are true. They are true testimonies of the greatness of the God we serve.

It has taken me longer to finish this book than most. I would think that it was done, then the Lord would give me another glimpse of something to add. I have written books for long enough to know that when He does this it will be a powerful book. Not because of

what I have written, but because the Master Potter is at the wheel shaping it with His hands.

It is the same way when I record. When I first started recording the songs that the Lord gives me (you can find them on my youtube channel under my name Sandy Haga), there were many times when I only had a fraction of the tune when I started recording them. They flowed as I played. I could not have done them on my own at all because I didn't even know where they were going.

There were a bunch of times when I couldn't sing because of sinus problems or when I had covid. I had learned though from years of traveling with the tent or being in services, that even if you can't talk when you get under the anointing, you can sing, and that was what happened when I recorded. If I wasn't careful, I would concentrate on the sound of the song not on the anointing of it. I would make a mistake when I recorded it and I would fix the mistake later. When I did that, I would take away from the anointing because I was trying to have it to be perfect just the way I thought it should be. I was interfering with the masterpiece that He was creating in the spiritual realm. I was concentrating on the things that didn't matter so much in the natural realm and He was putting in the things that would strengthen, encourage, teach, and change lives. That is how you have to do when you are writing things for the Lord or when you are doing anything for Him. Let the Master have His

way. He will take your weaknesses and make them to be your strength. He will look at the big picture and have it all come out perfectly fine in Him.

Chapter 1
Stories About Salvation

I want to start out by giving my testimony of how God saved me. I grew up in church. We knew that there was no need to argue with my Mom about going. (I want to add a note here. I often hear parents say that they wish they could get their kids to go to church. I would hate to think how I would have turned out if I didn't have knowledge of God's Word, and knowledge of Him that I gained by going to church when I was young.

I am so thankful that my mother wouldn't take no for an answer. Some things are worth the battle.) I do want to say here though that after I got saved, I took my salvation seriously every once in a while when we had a revival, or I went to church camp and got fired up. I took it seriously by spurts. I didn't take my Bible reading seriously. I didn't see how important it was to read my Bible. I didn't take my prayer life seriously. All of this hurt me when I had to face the world.

Another thing that hurt me was that I did not hear teaching about the power of God's Spirit. I didn't even hear about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, the filling of God's Spirit, until after I had destroyed my life. There was a lot of the Bible that I was not taught. Hosea 4:6 says that we can be destroyed for lack of knowledge. I wasn't taught about these things that could keep me. I wasn't studying on my own

either. Looking back I can see that it was no wonder that my life shipwrecked when I got out in the world.

I want to say this here. The church is responsible to teach and instruct children and young people in the things of God. You can't just give them Bible stories and think that teaches them all they need to know to survive this crazy world when they have to face it. Bible stories are good but if you don't teach them the Bible principles they need, then they won't have enough to survive.

It was a real eye opener when I asked a teenager in our school if he had been saved. (I try to ask every new person who enrolls this question.) He answered, "I have been to church all of my life, but I don't really know what it means to be saved." Church, we are failing our young people. We are failing our children. I have a feeling that there are a lot of churches who are doing this. Teach them the Word of God. Teach them how to be saved and what salvation means. Teach them how the Word of God is powerful and how it can keep them. Introduce them to the God that you serve. Tell them your stories, your testimonies of how God has kept you.

I got saved at an early age. But I threw it all away when I went to college. I got into drugs and drinking. It didn't take me long to wreck my life. God was always there trying to get through to me, sending people to witness to me, dealing with me by His

Spirit. But I was too busy rebelling against everything good to hear Him. Finally I hit bottom and I hit it hard. The only place I could look to be able to stay alive was up.

I didn't rededicate my heart and life to the Lord in church. I did so in a vehicle. I had so wrecked my life that I had lost hope that I could ever get it together again. I tried to kill myself by driving off of a cliff over a river. The last glance I had of the speedometer was over 80 and I gunned it after that. I knew that the only hope I had of getting my life together was God.

I prayed that if He was real and He was there that He would stop me. I knew that if He wasn't there I had no hope. Well, obviously He was there because I am here writing this. He miraculously kept me on that road. I didn't even squall tires. I wasn't even on the road. He kept me through that rough time and many more since. That was over 40 years ago. I can truly say that He has never let me down through all of those years. And He has given me lots of stories to share.

I think that the reason why I went through this time was that I wasn't taught about salvation and what that meant. I wasn't taught about how God could keep us. I wasn't taught about His Spirit and how He would keep me. I wasn't taught about the power of God's Word and how it would strengthen me and empower me to overcome. I wasn't taught about how the

enemy comes to destroy us and how to stand against him. I wasn't told testimonies of how God could keep me. I was blessed to be able to go to services with my grandparents where the Spirit of God would move and I loved them. But this wasn't a steady diet, just an occasional thing. All of this just set me up for failure and the devil was there to be sure to stop me.

Through God's grace and mercy the devil wasn't able to destroy me. I found the joy of God's salvation and deliverance. I found a freedom that shook off the chains that had come to bind me when I ran from the Lord. I found His love that I have held on to for over 40 years. It has never let me down. There have been times when I let the Lord down, but He has held onto me firm. I can truly say that He has never let me down.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of the woman that came to a feast that was held that Jesus attended. I believe that the woman was Mary Magdalene. You can find her story in Luke 7:36-50. Since this is a book about stories, I want to put her whole story here.

"And one of the Pharisees desired him (Jesus) that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an

alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is

forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

The reason why I love her story so much is because God forgave me of so much and gave me victory over so much. He lifted me out of the ditch I was in that was certain to turn into a grave. There were many around me who said, "Why does she think that she can get anything from God because she has done so much against Him. There is no hope for her." I praise God that He didn't listen to their opinions and that He looked through time and saw what I would one day be for Him. He forgave me of much and I love Him so much.

When I first came to the Lord, I came out of a lot of bondage that the devil had put around me. I had done a lot of things and I couldn't see that God could forgive me. I definitely couldn't forgive myself. I carried this load around like chains that pulled me down every time I tried to get up. (I believe that I am ministering to some of you who are reading this and you will say, "Hey, that is like me.") God delivered me from this. I can still remember like yesterday how God did this. You can remember the things that God tells you and does in your life because many years later it will be a clear memory as clear as the memories from yesterday. I can remember that Jesus

reached out to me and showed me His hands. I could almost see them in the natural they were so vivid in my spirit. I could see the nail scars there. He spoke to my heart, "I did this for you." I knew that Jesus had died for the world, but until that moment I hadn't taken it personally. I felt His love and forgiveness pouring out to me personally. I knew that if I had been the only one, He would have died just for me. I could see His love for me personally. I knew without a doubt that He had forgiven me and His love gave me the power to forgive myself. That moment changed my whole life. Let Him do the same for you.

If you have left a life full of sin behind, and you are feeling condemned because of the things you did in your past, then think of this story. Think of my testimony. It isn't what is behind you that is important. It is what you are doing now and it is about what you will one day do for the Lord. Don't let the devil condemn you over your past. The Bible says that God throws your sin into the sea of forgetfulness and remembers them no more. Micah 7:19 says, "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

There are no sins that He won't forgive. He died for you. He shed His blood that you might be forgiven. Will He forgive you? The Bible tells us that He even forgave the men who nailed Him to the cross. Luke

23:34 says, “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do….”

Another thing that people have problems with is thinking that there are some sins that God won’t forgive. A friend of mine who was in our college program for prisoners told me this testimony that surely points out God's wonderful forgiveness. He had been in prison for many years, and it was difficult for him when he was released. He tried to do it on his own and failed. A so called friend of his told him that there was no way that he would be able to make it and he just needed to kill himself. He took an overdose and died. But his story doesn’t end there. He was dead for several minutes. During that time he saw someone coming toward him. He recognized Jesus. As He began to come toward him, he began to say “Jesus, I am sorry, I am sorry” over and over. Jesus said, “Shhhh”. He kept repeating “I am sorry”. Jesus kept telling him to be quiet. Then He came close enough to grab him and He hugged him. This is a picture of Jesus’ forgiveness.

When my friend came back to life, he did things differently than before. He yielded to the Lord and let Him guide him. He let Him fight the battle. This time things turned out different. He found a job that was just right for him and was everything that he needed in a job. He didn’t have a vehicle to drive. His friend was driving him and they saw a vehicle with a For Sale sign on it. There was a gentleman there and

they asked him if he owned the vehicle. He answered, “No, but the lady who owns this vehicle is very particular about who she wants to have it.”

The man brought him to the lady who owned it. He began to tell his story. When he had finished, he waited almost thinking that the lady wouldn’t let him buy it. She looked up and said, “You are the one that the Lord told me I should give this vehicle to.” She gave him a nearly new very nice vehicle. He had learned to do it God’s way and yield his way to Him and it worked. This time he had victory in his life. He had surely found God’s wonderful grace and the power of His forgiveness.

Remember this story when the devil begins to condemn you over things you have done in the past. The Bible tells us in Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” The devil will cause you to feel condemned. God will convict you. He will let you know if you are sinning and lead you to repent. Then you can ask Him to forgive you. If he didn’t convict you, you wouldn’t know you were sinning.

Conviction is wonderful. Condemnation is not. Condemnation comes from the devil who beats you up even after you have repented. He reminds you of your sin over and over. He makes you feel discouraged. Condemnation steals your victory away.

When you feel this, know that it isn't God but it is the devil and stand against him. Tell him to leave you alone in the name of Jesus.

There have been many times when I have seen the power of salvation in the lives of others. I remember a time that a friend of mine was saved. He was an alcoholic and he had led a rough life. You could see this from his face. He looked way older than his years. He was saved. His face changed so much that I didn't even recognize him. God had erased the years of sin from off of his face. The load of sin and guilt was lifted off of him and he actually looked years younger.

I can truly say that when you are saved, you will know it. There will be a change. There will be light coming in place of darkness. Forgiveness will bring a release. Deliverance will come, you will be set free from the old. It may take a space of time, but it will come. It took a while for me to be delivered from the things that held me down, but deliverance came.

Sometimes it is easy to cheapen salvation. Some people just confess it with their mouth but they don't make commitment. They really don't want to be delivered from their sin, but they make excuses of why they can keep it. They never find true freedom and they never find a genuine relationship with God that can hold them through the storms. But when God saves you for real, you will know it.

One way of defining salvation is gaining a relationship with Jesus. You can find a relationship with the Lord that is real. You can know Him and you can walk with Him. He knows me better than I know myself and He loves me even when He sees my weaknesses. He loves me enough to forgive my weaknesses and failures when I repent of them and seek forgiveness. But He doesn't leave me there. He lifts me up out of them and makes me stronger. I can trust His power to keep me. His Word and His Spirit strengthen me. I know Him for real. I have seen what He can do and has done for the 40+ years that I have walked with Him.

I was listening to our Gospel radio station and I had this thought. We play gospel music of all types. Some of them are really old songs and some of them are new songs. Some of the people singing the songs were young, and some of them were old. They were from all kinds of different places and backgrounds. There were so many different artists that we played that I knew they couldn't have known one another. I was listening to how they were all talking about Jesus, what He is like and what He has done for them. You could tell that they were all talking about the same person. Think of it this way. If a group of people were talking about someone that they knew, unless that person was really strange, they would all be describing the same characteristics. And that was what happened in those songs. I could tell that they

all knew the same Savior and they had genuinely experienced His love. I could tell that they all had a relationship with Him. That is so cool.

Then I thought about the song Amazing Grace and how everyone can relate to that song because it talks about God's grace. That song was written in 1779. You can tell that John Newton, the song's writer, had a relationship with God that was real. He had a relationship with Jesus like the one I have.

Then I thought even further back to the disciples and to the saints in the New Testament who walked on this earth over 2000 years ago. They knew the same Savior that I personally have a relationship with today. Jesus is real and you can get to know Him for real. Not only can you get to know Him, but He can come right into your heart to live. You will change when that happens. What other religions can say that? We can also say that because He is alive, we can live also.

I have been privileged to lead a bunch of people to the Lord through the years. I can remember that when I first started leading people to do so I was afraid that when they prayed the sinner's prayer nothing would happen. I can say that in all of the times I have led people to the Lord, young and old, something always happened. There was a change. I can remember the lady whose face changed so that she looked much younger. I told her to look at herself in the mirror.

She stood and stared at her reflection and turned around and in an accusing voice said, “That is a trick mirror. How did you do that?” She had changed so much that she thought we had a trick mirror. She had told me that she couldn’t remember a time when she had been happy in her life. God gave her a great joy and that joy was reflected on her face.

I can remember a time of revival that we went through at the school (and I am claiming another such time). In the space of a short while we had many people getting saved. This wasn’t only students but parents and grandparents as well. It started in my office where some of the students accepted salvation. They went back to their classes and grabbed some of their friends and they led them to the Lord praying the prayer of salvation with them. Then these went and got more. When parents came in to pick up the children, they fell under conviction and were led to receive salvation too. This went on for several days. Not sure why it happened, but I am ever so glad that it did. Like I said, I am claiming another such time.

God can really use young people to lead others to the Lord. Their excitement they have when they find the Lord plus their willingness to take God at His Word and the willingness to obey no matter if they think that they will be turned down or made fun of makes them good soldiers of the Lord. The staff started that revival at the school but it was the students who kept it going.

I remember another time when God used children and young people to start a huge revival. When I first met Bishop Goad, the founder of New Life Church and Ministries, he traveled with a gospel tent. I tell the story in a chapter coming up about how the Lord led me to travel with him. I joined the team of young people who traveled with them. I remember one time when we set up the tent near a huge government apartment complex.

The first night we were there a couple of kids from the apartment complex came to the tent for a service. They gave their hearts to the Lord and got filled up with His Spirit. They got baptized with the Holy Spirit. They began to bring their friends. I can remember that there were several times during those meetings when there wasn't room enough at the altar for all of the young people who wanted to be saved. The ones wanting to go to the altar would grab hold of the ones who were down praying and yank them up and take their places.

This went on for several nights. Many of them were slain out in the power of God's Spirit. I remember some of them coming in and yelling "Hey preacher, can I get knocked out again tonight." They didn't know how to act in a church setting but they knew they were hungry for God and God met them where they were and filled them up. This is another example

of young people starting a revival. Obey the Lord and He can use you to start revivals.

Another thing to remember is this. Don't ever make the mistake of thinking that someone won't want to be saved. If God is leading you to pray with them, then He has worked with their heart. There were bunches of time that the devil would tell me that these people didn't want it. I remember one time that changed my life.

I lived in an apartment above a man who was really interesting. He had been a professional soldier most of his life. He had worked all over the world. He had worked at installations where they had installed missile sites among other interesting things. He was a really rough guy. The Lord led me to witness to him to lead him to salvation. I thought it away because I thought there was no way that as rough as this man was he would want to be saved. If we aren't careful we will think away what the Lord is leading us to do. We will question if it really is the Lord and we will miss out on obeying Him. This was one time that I really regretted doing that.

Just a little while after that I noticed that the man wasn't around. A friend of his told me that he had a heart attack and was in the hospital fighting for his life. Wow. That was a terrible feeling. I was so afraid that he would die before he had a chance to

hear about the Lord. I knew that God had led me to to talk to him and I had failed both of them.

I prayed harder than I had ever prayed in my life that he would live. God heard my prayers and he came home. As soon as he got home I went to talk to him. Before I could say anything, he told me about what had happened in the hospital. He told me that he had been in many wars and he had been in so many dangerous circumstances. He had never been afraid. He said that in the hospital he knew that he was facing death and he was afraid for the first time that he could remember. Then a presence came into his room and he recognized that it was God's Spirit. God began to deal with his heart. He gave his heart to Him. You see, I had forgotten that God doesn't have to have us to do His work. I was ever so glad that God did what I failed to do. I purposed in my heart not to fail him again in this way.

If you listen to God and you are in the habit of obeying Him, then you will be leading others to the Lord almost before you know it. I have led people to accept salvation and didn't even know they had gotten saved. One example is this. There is a site on the internet that is very profound called
101 Scientific facts and foreknowledge (eternal-productions.org/101science.html). It is an amazing site. It uses history and science to proove that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. I went over this site with a student and her mother. I didn't even

notice that something profound had happened. I saw it the next time that her and her daughter came in. She had given her heart to the Lord. They were so excited about what God had done in their lives. They were most excited of all about finding out how profound the Bible is. The mother called it THE BOOK with that sort of emphasis. I didn't realize that I had led her to the Lord. When you listen and obey the Lord and you speak what He says to speak, then you will be able to lead others to salvation. Just yield and let Him use you. He will.

I remember a story that Gladys Aylsworth told. She was a missionary in China just before and during the time when communism took over. I heard a recording of her telling this story. She had worked in the local prison. There was a man there that always seemed to be getting into trouble. He was a violent person and they had to chain him up in shackles. She prayed that God would set him free and take off of him the shackles that were over his heart and mind that caused him to be so mean. She also prayed that when God did this it would be in such a way that everyone would know that He had done a miracle. God answered her prayer.

The prisons in China had several big cells where several prisoners were locked in. One night this man woke up to see a brilliant light in his cell where before there had been only darkness. He began to see who the light was. It was Jesus. Several of the men woke

up to see this light. The guard went in to see what all of the ruckus was about, and immediately grabbed the man who was always causing things to happen. He hauled him out into the hallway. Then was when he noticed something that got his attention fast. The shackles that had covered the man were all unlocked. He knew that the key was in the governor of the prison's office and that was the only key. He knew that God had done a miracle.

The other miracle came when everyone who knew this man could see the change in him. They knew that God had unlocked the shackles, the bondage that had him so bound. They could see that God had set him free. Salvation is when Jesus comes into our life and breaks the shackles off.

If you are reading this and you have not accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life, then I want to invite you to do so. Let Him take your shackles off. Before coming to the Lord, many think that they can't do it. They think that they can't lead a Christian life, so they never come to the Lord. I couldn't do it when I was saved, and I can say that I can't do it now. But I am able to because of the Spirit of God that came into my heart to live who enables me to do what I need to do. The power of God's Word enables me to change every day and enables me to be a better person. We can't do it on our own, but praise God, we don't have to. We sing this little song, "Jesus on the inside working on the outside bringing forth a

change in our lives." That is a profound little song. Let Jesus come into your heart and there will be a change in your life just the same as all of these others I have told you about.

Not only does God bring about a change in our lives when we first get saved, but we grow and change in Him throughout all of the years of our lives. I praise the Lord for how He has changed me through the years. The Word of God brings about a change. The Spirit of God brings about a change and we grow in Him from day to day. I see something that greatly concerns me. I see Christians who never grow in the Lord. They never change. Their relationship with the Lord doesn't grow deeper. They stay on the outside edge of God in their service. They compromise with the world. They never grow. When I see that, I know that they are not real in their walk with God, When you walk with God, and when you allow His Word and His Spirit to move in your life, there will be a change. Every day there will be a change.

Well, this isn't all of the stories I have about salvation, but it is all I will put in this book. I hope most of all that these stories, these true accounts, will lead someone to the Lord so that they can find salvation and the relationship with God that brings. I also hope that these stories have inspired you to let the Lord use you. Let Him make you to be a soul winner. God calls everyone of us to lead others to the Lord.

Mark 16:15 says these words that Jesus told His disciples. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” He calls everyone of us to share the Gospel with those around us. He calls us all to be soul winners. Some of his disciples were fisherman. He called them to become fishers of men. These words that He told them He is also telling you in Mark 1:17, “And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.”

Proverbs 11:30 says, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” Daniel 12:3 says, “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Let Romans 10:1 be your heart’s desire and your prayer. “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.” May your heart’s desire and prayer be that others might be saved.

John 4:35 tell Jesus’ words that He gave His disciples. They are even more true now. “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” If you look around you will see that the harvest is in the fields waiting for the workers to bring it in. Be a worker for the Lord. Obey Him and let Him use you. There is a world out there that desperately needs Him.

Chapter 2
Stories About God's Plan

I am totally convinced that God has a plan for each of His children. It is a plan that He works on diligently from the time that they are born to the time that they die. How our life goes is determined by how we yield to His plan. There is scripture to back this up. Before we are born, God orchestrates the details of our life. He has a plan and a purpose for each one of us. When we obey Him and walk with Him, the details of our life are orchestrated by God.

We need to fulfill our purpose, plan and destiny that God has ordained for each one of us long ago. We do that by every day obeying God. I am reminded of the scripture Psalms 37:23 that says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." God has a plan for our life.

In Jeremiah 1:5 God told this to Jeremiah. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." .Even before Jeremiah was born God had a plan for his life. The same is true for you.

God certainly had a plan for my life. I pray that when you read this chapter you realize that God has a plan for your life, and you yield to His leading so that you can find that plan He has for you. The first time I

realized that God had a plan for my life was when I first met Bishop Goad in a tent meeting.

When God has a plan for your life, the enemy (the devil) will do all that he can to stop you from obeying God. This is how he tried to stop me. I had a friend who wanted to get saved, but she said that to do that she needed to know that God would accept her like she was. There was a tent meeting going on in our town. We dressed in our jeans and went. As soon as we walked into the tent the preacher started talking about how we were dressed. We left. We heard him brag about how he had "tanned our hides and chased us off".

Brother Goad set up his tent in that same lot. His tent was exactly like that other preacher's tent. But God led him to set the tent in a different way than the one that had been there before him. If he hadn't obeyed, I would not have known that this was a different tent. Instead of setting the tent east to west like the other preacher had done, he set it north to south. After going through what we went through with that other preacher we would not have gone if he not set it differently.

The devil had used that man to stop me from going to Brother Goad's tent meeting. When I saw that it was set differently from the other one, then I knew that it wasn't the same preacher. When we showed up at the tent, I had on a railroad cap, t-shirt and blue jeans and

I was barefooted. Brother Goad did not run us out from the tent, but he had heard that I could sing and he asked me to come up on the platform to sing. Some of the people who were like that other preacher left when I got up to sing. This didn't hinder Brother Goad from welcoming all of us.

I knew that there was a big difference between the two preachers. I could really tell the difference when the anointing started to move in the service. I had never really felt anything quite that powerful. I knew that it was God and I knew that I wanted more of it. (I just want to add a note here: If Brother Goad had not obeyed the Lord, then I wouldn't be here today. I can say this without a doubt. Who knows where I would be and what I would have become. When you miss God's plan, then you miss His best.)

Brother Goad traveled with a team of young people including his wife and family. God spoke and told me to leave everything behind and travel with them. I didn't even know these people. They hadn't even asked me to do this. I remember that we fixed a pot of spaghetti for the team one night. Everyone ate and we had just a little bit left in the bottom of the pot.

Bishop Goad preached that night about how the churches needed to work together. He mentioned that there was a pot of spaghetti on the stove and everyone needed to stay and fellowship and eat. He didn't know that there was only a little bit left in the pot.

There were about 40 people in that service and most of them stayed. By faith, we started dipping out the spaghetti with a teacup. We fed everyone there (and some came back for seconds) and when it was all over we took home in the pot the exact amount that we had started with. That got my attention. I knew that I could trust these people because I had watched God do a genuine miracle in their midst. It was very important that I obey God and He very carefully put His plan in action taking the utmost care that I heard and obeyed even doing a miracle to help me to take this step of faith. He will do the same for you.

When I think of God's plan for my life, I right away think of how He put my husband and I together. He started coming to our tent meetings and came several years before he talked to me. He was very shy. I didn't know that he was partly coming to see me. He would bring food from their garden. I didn't know until much later that he was doing that to be able to take care of me in some way. God had already put it in his heart to take care of me.

When we finally started talking, we knew that we were meant for each other. We both had purposed not to get married, but months before we finally started talking God had told both of us that it was time. We were so sure of this that we didn't date longer than a few months. We were right. At the time that I am writing this, we have been married for 39 years. He is

still taking care of me. He loves me with a love that God gave him for me.

It takes a special man to put up with what I do for the Lord. He is a vital part of our church and ministry and has been for many years. He does his part and he is happy to help me to do my part. He loves me with a huge love, but he also has the grit to stand up to me when he needs to. He is my head, but I am not under his feet. I am close to his heart. I thank God for him.

If you are waiting for your husband or wife, be careful to let God choose for you. Make sure that the one you are considering is part of God's plan for you. If you think you know that this is the right one, then it is not. Because when you know that it is the right one, you will know with all of your heart.

Another plan that He had for my life was to help start New Life Christian Academy. This is our 35th year. Through the last 35 years I have heard testimonies of how the school has changed lives and led many to the Lord. When God first told me to help start the school, though, I couldn't see what I now can see when looking back.

The first thing that I thought was that I couldn't do it. I knew I couldn't. I told God that I couldn't. I never will forget His answer. He said, "I created the heavens and the earth, how dare you say that you cannot do the thing that I have ordained and anointed you to

do." I have come close to saying that again, but when I start to say it, I stop and I remember what He said. When God tells you to do something, He will enable you to be able to do it. He will give you what you need to get it done. It is your job to obey Him and to trust Him that He will do just that.

He also had a plan for me to be a teacher and for me to teach teachers. When I look back, I can see His plan for that working when I was middle school age. The first class that I taught was a Sunday school class that I taught at that age. He had already given me gifts and talents that I needed to be able to do what I later accomplished through Him. When you are trying to find God's plan and purpose for your life, then look at your gifts and talents. God will have put things in your life that He will use.

Some of the things that God used were the experiences that I had when I turned away from God. When I share my testimony with young people who are going through similar things, they know that I know what they are going through. They also know that if God can change my life, He can also change theirs. God even used this time of my life to cause me to be able to help young people. He also used it because going through this time gave me a great compassion for those who are having the same battles that I had during those years. God didn't cause these things to happen to me. I definitely did that myself.

But He even used my disobedience to further His plan for my life. Wow. What an awesome God.

We really had a battle in the early years of the ministry more so than now. The devil was determined to stop us. Because we had such a battle, we carefully obeyed the Lord and we were determined for His plan to come about. Our obedience and our faith, the promises that God made us and His promises in His Word, all stopped the devil from being able to destroy the ministry. When you obey God and work in His plan, then the enemy won't be able to stop you. If you are not obeying God in your ministry or in your life, then you will not have that covering. It is important that you walk in God's plan.

Then it came time to start the college. This was also part of God's plan. We had prayed to start a college, but had no idea how to start going in that direction. We met a man who had a Bible college. He had several severe illnesses and wanted someone to take over the college. The neat thing about this was that this man had started the college over 5 years before he met us. He had named the college New Life Bible college and Seminary. The name of our ministry is New Life Church and Ministries. God had been working on His plan way before we even started the college.

How God has used the college is an amazing story in itself. I remember that when we first started enrolling

international students, no one was enrolling. We thought that the only way that we could get students to come was to give free tuition to them. We also knew that it would help in the countries where the incomes were low.

We were so anxious to have people come that we did this. Now we have had over 40 colleges that are extensions of New Life Bible College and Seminary. Many of them we have helped start. How did we do this? I am not really sure. When I look back on it, I can't tell you what we did to make this happen. I can tell you without a doubt that God did it. It was His plan and He worked on that plan and made it happen. We just had to obey Him. Step by step and day by day by obeying Him we began to see His plan become a reality. It is hard to say how many ministers, teachers, and pastors that we have helped to send out over the last 20 years in many different countries.

Another thing that God had a plan for was our branch of the college that works with inmates. This started because of a friend of ours who was in prison. He was an inmate, but he started a powerful ministry in his prison. He became the Chaplain's assistant. He started a church in the prison that was running around 200 inmates. He asked to enroll in our Bible college. We hadn't done anything like that, but we agreed to try it. We learned how things had to work for him to be able to take the classes. He taught us what we needed to know to get things going.

He started to get others interested in our program. Before long we had several people involved in the program. They were earning degrees through our Bible college. The Chaplain in that prison helped us work things out and helped us to do things in a way that worked in the prison environment. We had no idea what was coming next, but God did in His wonderful plan.

Some of the inmates from that prison were moved to other prisons. They were fired up to do something for the Lord from taking our classes. Often they would start Bible studies at the new prison. That led to others taking our classes. This spread out and now we have over 30 inmates who are enrolled in New Life Bible College and Seminary who are earning degrees in Bible Knowledge and that number is growing. We had no idea when we started with that one inmate what would come of that. Often you won't see the big picture. God will work in the background orchestrating His plan but you won't know it. I am glad that we listened when we were asked to help that one person. Sometimes that is how things start with God.

We had felt a need to be able to do something at the prison that is in the next county over from our county. We felt like we should do something in our area especially. We had no idea how to get started, but God had a plan. At that time, I wasn't keeping up

with which prisons each inmate was in. One of the men transferred to a new prison and he reported that he had started having Bible studies in the new prison. He had gotten several inmates involved in the college classes. He was so excited about what God was doing. When I learned which prison he was in, I knew that what was happening there was an answer to our prayers. He was in our local prison. God's plan was at work before we even knew what He was doing.

As a testimony to the power of God's Word, a chaplain in a prison where several inmates are enrolled in the college told me that he could really see a difference in the men who took our classes. He said that everyone that worked with them saw a change. Our classes are made up of God's Word. There is hardly a page in the classes that doesn't have scripture. Why did they change? Because they committed to studying God's Word and God's Word has the power to change.

I can remember a time when I knew God was working out his plan in my life. I had never been out of the United States. God knew that this would hinder me when it was time for us to start these colleges in different countries. God made a way for me to be able to go to Romania and the Ukraine not long after communism fell.

I can remember standing by a river at a baptizing in the Ukraine. God led me to pick up a rock out of that river. I wrote on it Jesus Christos El Domnul Viață

Nouă which is Romanian for Jesus Christ is Lord. New Life. When I did that, I had no idea of what was coming. God did. He already was working on this plan to put us in many countries.

If you yield to God, He will direct your paths and He will enable you to do mighty things. He will lead you. Isaiah 42:16 says, "And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them."

I remember a time in the Ukraine when God worked out a plan to use our team that had gone to start Christian schools. We had heard about a college professor who had printed a Christian newspaper even during communism. That was the only thing that we knew about him. We didn't know his name or the college that he had taught at. We only knew that it was important for us to find him. We asked many people and no one had advice on how to find this man.

We went to a baptizing. At this time, there was a huge revival going on in this country. For the first time people could openly attend church. People could openly confess to be a Christian. People were being saved by the hundreds. And they were being baptized. At this particular baptism, over 100 people

were being baptized. There were hundreds of people attending this event.

We didn't have our interpreter with us so we were trying to find someone who could interpret for us. After searching for a while, we found a young man who was interpreting in English for some other people. We joined him and he interpreted for us. After the Baptizing we felt led to tell him that we were trying to find this college professor and we told him what we knew about him. I will never forget the look of amazement that he had on his face. He told us why he was amazed in three simple words. He answered, "That's my Dad". He took us to meet his Dad and it became clear why it was so important for us to find this man.

He was still a professor at that same college, the University of Chernivtsi. He invited us to come back the following year and he organized a gathering of about 200 public school teachers who wanted to learn how to put Christ in their curriculum instead of communism. We held a week long seminar instructing them. The Lord moved and hearts were encouraged and some of them made a commitment to serve the Lord. God had a plan and even though we had no idea of the plan He had made or how to make it happen, He did. He worked out this plan. He made crooked places straight before us.
Then later on in our ministry it came time to start our radio ministry. We operate 3 radio stations (2 tower

stations and a 24 hour internet station with preaching). God had put it on Bishop Goad's heart to buy stations. We heard that the radio station not far from our location was for sale. He had no idea of who to contact and how to make this happen.

Before he even had time to tell anyone about our plans and before he had a chance to search for the owners a gentleman showed up at our headquarters and introduced himself as the man who owned the station. He lived a long ways away but he asked Brother Goad if he knew anyone that wanted to buy a station. He made us an offer that we couldn't refuse. God made a way and we were able to pay for the station. Why? We were obeying Him and it was all in His plan. He had provided the means to do what He told us to do. That was part of His plan.

We all have a plan and a purpose for our life. The happiest and the most peaceful people are those who are flowing in God's plan. The most stressed out and fretful people are those who have no idea what God's plan is for their life because they are too busy doing their own thing their own way to be able to hold to God. That has the same affect on people as rubbing a cat's fur the wrong way. You have to be able to yield to God to obey Him and walk in His plan.

For most of my life before I started traveling with the ministry, I was a very rebellious person. I was going to do it my way or bust. And I busted. I used to break

and train horses. For most of my life, I was like a horse that I tried to break. He was a really fast horse. There were a bunch of kids who rode horses in my neighborhood I grew up in. We would have races in the fields.

Even though I had the fastest horse, I could never win a race. My horse would get the bit in his mouth and set his head and take off in the opposite direction from the finish line. He was such a stubborn horse that we could never finish the race. Sometimes if we aren't careful we can be like that horse. I was. God did a work in me to help me to change to be someone who would yield to God's plan. Now I am finishing the races and I believe that I am just now starting to see some of the things that God has in His plan for me.

I want to share with you a little more about my rebellious streak. When I first started traveling with the ministry, my rebellious streak was terrible. Someone would tell me not to do something and I would do it and not even know why. The devil had me bound in a spirit of rebellion. God had a plan to deliver me. Sometimes we have to have reality shoved in our face, then we become willing to change. My moment of reality came when Brother Goad kicked me off of the team. That woke me up. I knew that this was God's plan for my life. It looked like because of my rebellious attitude I would not be able to walk in God's plan. It really shook me up. I fixed things with God. I yielded my rebellious streak to

Him and He delivered me. To make a long story short, God led the ministry to move to a town near where I lived. God gave me another chance and this time I didn't play games. Sometimes if you aren't careful, you will miss God's plan because of a rebellious spirit that creates a rebellious attitude. I pray that if this is happening to you that God delivers you like He did me.

Our days are ordained by God. He has a plan for our life. I love to read those little Christian biographies called *Christian Heroes Then and Now* that are done by Janet and Geoff Benge. These are life stories about people who have done profound things for the Lord. They tell these people's life stories starting from when they were children. It is so interesting to see how the details of things that happened to them even when they were children helped shape them to be the people that they became and how those details through their lives enabled them to be able to do the things that they did.

I love to see how God planned out their lives, getting them ready to accomplish the things that through Him they accomplished. Even before they started serving the Lord, even before they were saved, God was working in their lives shaping them. He knew that they would one day dedicate themselves to Him, yield to Him and work for Him.

When I look back through my own life I can see the Master's plan at work. God has a plan for your life. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." God will order your steps if you allow Him to. The only way that we will be happy, at peace, and fulfilled is if we walk in that plan fulfilling our purpose that He has given us.

We have to yield our will to His will to walk in the details of our life's plan that He has for us. Some of the most miserable people I know are Christians that are too busy with their own plans to walk in God's plans. They never find true peace and contentment because of that. They are always struggling because they are trying to paddle upstream instead of flowing with God's Spirit. Things never quite work out for them because God's Spirit is not blessing their life. If these things are happening to you, then stop. Put yourself and your will on hold. Ask God to break your will so that you can do His thing His way. If you do, then you will find a whole new life. God has a plan for your life.

The details of our life are arranged by God. I don't mean that this is only so for ministers or workers for the Lord. But He has a plan for our lives even if we are not in some type of ministry. My dentist says that God called him to be a dentist. My mechanic says that God called him to be a mechanic. God has a plan

for our lives in what job we do if we yield to Him. But it is more than that. I constantly see things that remind me that God has a plan for each day of my life if I will yield to Him. Every detail of our lives is planned out if we obey Him, walk with Him, and flow in His Spirit. Every day can be a masterpiece if we put it in the hands of Master. Amen.

I want to talk about a mistake that people often make. They think because they aren't a minister, or because they don't work in a ministry then why would God have a plan for their lives. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things whether those things be a minister or a witness at work or on the street. I know people who have a huge powerful ministry of witnessing to others around them one at a time leading many to the Lord. I know many who have started a prayer meeting with the ones that they work with and the whole atmosphere at their job has changed because of this. God will use you where you are and He will put you where you need to be if you will yield to His plan.

Here are more scriptures that point out that God will work a plan for your life. Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Psalms 37:5 "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalms 37:23:24 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." Isaiah 48:10 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God."

Here are more verses. 1 Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." Psalms 66:10 "For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried." Job 23:10 "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Proverbs 19:12 (Berean Bible)

"Many plans are in a man's heart, but the purpose of the LORD will prevail." Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Yield to God and let Him lead you. You will be amazed at what He will do in your life.

Chapter 3
Stories About God's Perfect Timing

There is a saying that I hear a lot, and I am sure you have probably heard this as well. God always answers prayers. Sometimes He says yes, sometimes he says no and sometimes He says wait for the perfect time. God is a master planner and He is able to time things in a perfect way. I am reminded of a conductor directing a huge orchestra. Really huge. He has all the performers playing their individual instruments coordinating it all to make beautiful music.

Sometimes things seem like they are delayed but they come just in time. I am reminded of the story of Lazarus in the Bible. Lazarus was seriously sick. His sisters sent word to Jesus to come pray for him. He came after Lazarus had died. He waited on purpose to come after He died. Why? He had a greater miracle in mind than healing. He raised Lazarus from the dead. Sometimes it may seem that He is late, but He is right on time in His perfect plan.

There have been a lot of times in our ministry when God promised us certain things would happen. We would sometimes wait for years and during those years the devil would tell us that we were mistaken about what God had promised. But when it was the right time for it to happen we would see the promises that God made. They weren't just faith, but they became real.

One example is our Christian school. We had a vision for it for years before it became a reality. I had taught in the public schools for several years. Then I was teaching in a private school that educated children in a children's home plus other children in the area came as well. The people who ran the school didn't believe in the power of God's Spirit. They didn't believe in healing or the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Even though it wasn't popular there, I made a stand for all of those. I was the only teacher there that did that. I started to pray for God to send more teachers who believed in these things. I also prayed for God to reveal the truth to these people.

God began to answer both of those prayers. I remember how God revealed the power of healing to everyone in the school. There was a little boy in my class who was running and fell. He hit his desk hard. It made a deep cut just under his eye. I took him to the office and they were calling his parents to take him to the hospital for stitches.

I went back to my class and the children in my class began to pray. I taught Kindergarten at that time. They were praying that God would heal him. Children have amazing faith to believe in miracles. They take the attitude that if God says He will do it, and they ask Him to, then He does it. It wasn't long before the boy that had been cut came back into the classroom.

I asked him why didn't they take him to the doctor. Then I realized why. God had healed the cut on his face. It had healed up and a had made a small scar like a wound that was weeks old. The whole school heard about how God can heal. There was a time when I thought I had to tell everyone that was there the truth. My words would have had little effect. God's miracle did.

God also answered my prayer to send more teachers who believe in the power of God's Spirit. Before long we had about 5 teachers who believed that way. We started standing up for the Spirit of God and teaching how He can move for His people. We taught them how He could deliver them, empower them, and heal them. The staff came up with a paper that you had to sign to be able to continue to teach there. Basically you had to denounce the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, the power of God's Spirit to change people, and you had to denounce healing. I couldn't sign that. I lost my job. The Lord showed us it was time for us to start the school.

We started making plans and getting God's guidance on what we needed to do and when. He told us to start it when the next school year started. We didn't know this, but the only other Christian school in the area closed that summer. There were many of the children in the school who had never been in public school and they were ready to graduate. God had timed everything out perfectly. What I thought was a

terrible thing that happened to me when I lost my job was just a next step in God's perfect timing. He had it all timed out perfectly.

God even provided everything that we needed to start the school. When the other school closed, they had a sale of all of the resources that the school owned. They had rooms full of Christian school curriculum, play ground equipment, desks and chairs, typewriters (that shows how long ago that was), everything that we would need. We went to the sale with the only money that we had. We only had $200.00 at that time.

We picked out the few things that amount would buy. The pastor of that church asked us what we would be willing to pay for all of the things that they had. We looked at each other and didn't even give an answer because we knew that the amount we had wouldn't touch a fraction of what all of that was worth. Imagine our surprise when the pastor turned around and said, "I'll tell you what. I'll sell all of this to you for $200.00." We knew that God had made a way for us to start the school and we knew that all of this happened in His perfect time.

We went through a season when our church wouldn't grow. We had a handful and that was all we had for several years. We beat ourselves up because we didn't have more people come. We were working strong in different countries, but it seemed like on the

local scene nothing was happening. We tried everything, but nothing worked. Then all of the sudden it has started to grow. When we look back, we see why it didn't work until now. There were certain circumstances, certain things that we had to go through. One was when Bishop Goad died. There were other such things. Now looking back we can see why we didn't grow. If a church congregation, especially one with new converts had to go through all we went through, they may have lost their faith. It would have been a battle for them. As seasoned warriors, it was hard to walk the walk we had to walk. There was a reason why we went through what we went through. There was a reason why the church didn't grow until our battle was won. Now we understand. Now, in God's perfect time, we are growing and this is just the beginning of what God has promised us.

Isaiah 55:9 says, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." God is so big that time sits inside of Him. He can see it all. He sees the past and the present at the same time. I have watched what He does and I know without any shadow of a doubt that this is so. He is the master planner who times things out in a perfect plan in perfect timing.

He can also direct us to do things in His perfect timing. Even if it is just things that we need to take care of. I remember a time when I really needed bad

to talk to a student's grandfather who was raising the boy. It was important that day that I be able to talk to him. The problem was I couldn't call him and he was never at home. God put it in my heart that I needed to go now to talk to him. I went to the boy's mother's house first. Then I went to his grandfather's house. I had just pulled into the man's driveway when he passed by and saw me and stopped to talk to me. I hadn't even been there for 5 minutes. God knew that I would go to the mother's house first and still timed me to be able to get there just when the man passed by his house. Sometimes we don't see God's perfect timing work out because we aren't yielded to Him and obedient. When we do begin to yield to Him, we can see amazing things that He does in our lives.

God also times things so that He can provide for our needs. I can remember when God had me do something at a perfect time. During covid, my freezer went out. The U.S. had been getting their freezers from China, so when everything happened the way it did, you couldn't get a freezer. I called Lowe's and they told me that they only had 200 in their main company warehouse and had orders for 3,000. I had to have a freezer and started praying that God send one. He led me to call Home Depot. I had never ordered anything from them, but listened and obeyed. I called and ordered it.

They have a policy that they call the day before they deliver it and if you don't get that call then you lose

that order. About a week before time for them to deliver it, God told me to call the company to be sure that they had the right number. I did and they didn't have the right number down. Somehow an old number that we had years before was in their system. When the lady took my number down, she mentioned that she wanted to check on my order. She came back and told me that she had some bad news. They were out of freezers. Then she told me the good news. I had gotten the last one available. God had me to call at the perfect time. If I hadn't obeyed Him, I wouldn't have gotten my freezer. (Hey, I'm just trying to put a little message in here.)

There have been times when God protected me and saved my life because of His perfect timing. I remember a time when I had washed my car and laid my floor mats out on the grass to dry. I started to get in my car to go somewhere and the Lord told me to get my floor mats in. I thought to myself that this couldn't be God because why would God tell me to get my floor mats in. You know how we do sometimes. We talk ourselves out of knowing that it is God speaking to us. I started to drive off, but I got this urgent feeling that I needed to get my floor mats in. I got back out of my car and was standing there with my floor mats in my hands when there was a huge bang that shook the ground.

I lived on a narrow street and there was a sharp curve right above my house. It was so narrow and sharp

that only one person could go around it at a time. A man had come flying down my street and had missed that curve and run head on into a tree in my neighbor's yard. He hit it so hard that the motor came back and pinned him in. If I hadn't stopped to get my floor mats, he would have hit me head on and I probably would have been killed. God knew what was coming and to protect me He told me something to do that would delay me. His perfect timing saved my life. I've had several things like this happen.

I remember another time when the Lord saved my life because of His perfect timing. We had the tent set up in Collinsville, VA. We were leaving from our house to go to the tent meeting. There were a couple of carloads of us going. The first carload felt like they needed to hurry. The second carload was delayed. I was in the first carload. When we were nearly there, we stopped at a gas station. We were there a while. While we were there, the other carload caught up with us and they pulled into the station too. The first thing they asked us was, "Did you see the plane that crashed on the road?" A small engine plane had crashed on the highway between our car and their car. God had us timed exactly so that we were protected.

Whether it is to protect us, or provide for us, or whether He is directing us to be able to reach others, we can trust in His perfect timing. Here are some scriptures about God's perfect timing. When you read these know that this is for you. Habakkuk 2:3, "For

the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

Here are more verses that tell this. Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Psalms 27:14, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Acts 1:7, "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." To sum it up, I want to say this from Psalms 37:7 part A "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him…."

I want to close this chapter by talking about an event that will change the world. It is the event of Jesus coming back to take His children home in the rapture. I hear a lot of people say, "I wish the Lord would come back soon." I hear others say, "I don't want my loved ones to be left behind. I hope that He waits a while."

I am not sure when He will come, but I do know this. It will happen at the perfect time in His plan that He has set forth even before the world was formed. It will be a perfect time for all concerned. There won't be one left out who will be able to say, "I didn't get my chance." He has a plan and all of the things that

were written in His Word concerning the rapture, the judgment, the outpouring of God's wrath, it will all take place as the Word says. It will all take place in God's perfect plan at His perfect time.

Chapter 4
Stories About How God Enables Us to Do What He Calls Us to Do

I want to include stories in this chapter that talk about how God enables people to be able to do the things that He calls them to do. I am reminded of the disciples who followed Jesus. Many of them had been fishermen. They didn't have a lot of schooling. They weren't trained to be preachers. They just obeyed the Lord as they walked with Him. Acts 4:13 says, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Other people who heard them speak took note that they had been with the Lord because of the power behind what they spoke. God enabled them to be powerful speakers. When you walk with the Lord and obey Him, people will take note that you have been with Jesus. He will enable you to do the things that you need to do.

I want to start out this chapter by telling you that God does not just love the perfect people. He doesn't just use perfect people. If He only used perfect people, then there would never be anybody available to do what He needs done. There have been a lot of times when I thought I couldn't do the things that God told me to do. These scriptures helped me to be able to do

those things that He called me to do: Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” It doesn’t say that you can do the easy things, but it says that you can do all things. All things that God tells you to do. I love this scripture. It reminds you that you don’t have to do it on your own. You can only live this life and do the things God calls you to do if you are crucified with Christ and He lives and does things through you.

It is through faith in him that we can be and do. Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” We read in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence” If the devil is banging on you to make you feel that you are foolish, base, and despised, then this is a great scripture to remember. That is the sort of people that God is looking to use.

When I first started singing for the Lord, I didn't sing very well. Someone told me this story. I heard this a lot of years ago. I still think of it when I don't think I am not able to do something.

This illustration starts out with two people who are singing for the Lord. One has perfect pitch and a trained voice. They have a great talent to sing. The other cannot sing well at all. So when they stand up to sing they pray, "God I can't do this. Use me. Anoint me to change people's lives." Which one can God use the most? It doesn't matter how perfect you can do things that God leads you to do. It matters that you obey Him. Pray that God helps you to do what He tells you to do. He will enable you to do it. He will anoint you with His Spirit. Through His Spirit you will find the power to do what He calls you to do.

After I started traveling with the tent, I started playing the piano for the services. I had never played by ear. I had taken piano lessons since I was 6 and I learned how to read music. Because I was conditioned to play that way for all of those years, I had a mental block about playing by ear. But when you have the kind of services that we have, and had back then, there is no way that you can have a hymnal with all of the songs in it that all of the people who sing in a service would sing. I had to play by ear. I couldn't do it. Or so I thought. In a service they laid hands on me and prayed for me. In just a service or two after that when

I played the piano, my hands started doing things almost by themselves. God enabled me to play.

When I started playing the piano in the tent services, we used to carry an upright piano (not electric). I was an enthusiastic piano player. So enthusiastic that when the anointing would begin to flow I would break piano strings. No kidding. When we started our church in Galax, we had started using the electronic pianos. We left that piano in the church as an extra. We didn't use it in the services because 1/3 of the strings were broken. One night Bishop Goad ministered on how God can use us in spite of our weaknesses. The Lord was anointing the message. He told them to pull out that old piano and told me to play it. When I started playing it, I knew where a lot of the strings were broken and tried not to play those notes. But the Holy Ghost got in my playing and I found out that every string of that old piano played with a perfect pitch. Every string played under the anointing. Even the broken ones. That is what God does with us. If we yield and become the instrument in the Master's hands, even if we have broken strings, under the anointing every broken string, every weakness we have will play perfect music.

There have been other services when God gave out gifts of music, both playing instruments and singing. I remember Bishop Goad's son-in-law went up to be prayed for that he would be able to play the piano. It wasn't long after that he was outplaying me and I had

played for years. God gave him that gift and before long he played the guitar and the bass as well. God enabled him to do what he had called him to do.

I can remember a girl I knew who sang terribly. She was totally tone deaf. In a service, she came up front to be prayed for so that she could sing. You should hear her sing now. When God gives you a supernatural gift it is way better than those who have the gifts in the natural. She has an amazing voice. God enabled her to do what He called her to do.

When I think of how God has enabled me to do what He led me to do, I think most of all of how He has allowed me to write books. When I first started writing books, I didn't think that they were very good. Matter of fact, for years the only people who I would let read them were my friends and those around me in the ministry. God had a plan to change this. He made me use them. When the college first expanded to become international, we had to use books that were copyrighted and we had to have the permission of the authors to use them. We also had to have books that we were able to send through email because the overseas colleges were not able to buy those. That really narrowed down the field.

We found one company that wrote curriculum and it was available online, and it was free for colleges to use. It was really powerful curriculum. But they didn't have all of the classes that we needed to be able

to have courses for the Associate through Doctorate degrees. That took a lot of books. God showed me that I was to use my books and put me in a position where I had to use them because nothing else was available.

Now the devil will have you to underestimate the gifts that God gives you so that you don't use them. I thought to myself that no one would want to read my books or use them in their classes, but I was forced to use them because we had no other options. We used them for a few years and I still was convinced that they weren't very good. That was until I had a phone conversation with a man from India. He had called because he wanted to start an extension college. In the middle of the conversation, he asked me my name. I told him. I will never forget what he said. He said, "Oh my, you are a famous author here in India." I thought to myself that this guy really has me mixed up with someone else. I thought that until he began to tell me the titles of his favorite books and began quoting them. God had enabled me to write and He used that gift.

Now I know that I do not have a very good memory. That is one of my greatest weaknesses. The people who work with me know this and so do my students. There is no way that I can write a book and remember what I have written so that I don't repeat myself over and over. I remember one time when I had written an especially long book, and I was concerned that I had

used scriptures over and over repeating them. I wrote down all of the scriptures that I used and I had not repeated any of them more than once. (Now I have done that in this book because I wanted to repeat them for them to stand out to you.)

Matter of fact I think that the thing that the Lord has used that has enabled me to write books is my terrible memory. Because I know that this is my weakness, I don't try to do this on my own. I know that I can't write them on my own. Instead I have learned to be a really good listener. He leads me what to write and I write it. That is why they are powerful books. They are His books. My weakness is what enables my books to be powerful life changing books. So I can't even brag about my books, because I know that without His help I would not be able to write at all.

I want to say something here about how God used my books. I am giving the next illustration especially as a message to all of you extension colleges. Don't ever underestimate your impact on the world around you. You are training workers to go out and carry the Gospel in truth and in the anointing. Let's say that only one student goes out and labors for the Lord (and there will be many more, but I am just using this as an example). If that one student reaches 5 students. And those 5 reach 5, then 125 people are reached. If each one of those reaches 5 then think of how huge that number will grow. Then take into account that you send many out to labor for the Lord.

As far as the impact that many of you will have on the world (and you might not know just what an impact you have) I want to tell this story. It is also a story of how God can use your gift, even when you think it isn't much. Not long ago I got an email from one of our overseas colleges. They told how one of their students was a member of their country's parliament. Many times whether or not a war will break out in a country depends on decisions that are made in that country's government. This extension had taught the class *Ministry of Hope* that used my book *There Is Hope*.

In one parliamentary session everything was going bad. The ones who were standing for peace were giving up. This student stood up and he said, "In God there is always hope. We need to hold on to hope. We need to hold on to God." Then he added some things that he had heard in his class. There were Christians there who weren't standing up for God. When he spoke up, they joined. Him. The war that was almost sure to start that day did not start. Peace reigned because of his obedience. What did God use that day? My book that I thought was not much.

I have found that if God calls you to do something you will be able to do what He tells you to do. He will enable you to do whatever He asks you to do. He will provide the natural things that you need to get the job done, like finances and materials you need. He will also provide the things inside of you that you

need to be able to do what He has called you to do. He will not ask you to do the things that you can't do. He will instruct you and prepare you. If this thing is in His plan then He has been preparing you since the day you were born. Don't tell Him that you can't

I am reminded of Suzanne, Bishop Goad's daughter. When Bishop Goad passed away, she became the director of the ministry. A lot of people were afraid that the ministry wouldn't be able to continue. I knew that this was not true. I knew because I knew that God knew that this would happen. He knew that we would continue to operate. He had been working on Suzanne from the time she was born. She grew up in the ministry. Except for a brief time as a teenager when she took a public job, she worked full time in the ministry tracking around behind her Dad as his assistant. Even though neither one of them knew it at the time, he trained her to take his place. When it was time for her to do so, she was able. God had enabled her to be able to do what she had to do.

Sometimes God enables us by working out a plan that opens doors for us to do things. Sometimes we become weak and we need God's help to continue with the victory. God will lift us up and enable us to continue. God has used eagles to lift me up many times. The first time that He used an eagle in my life was a time when I had come to the place where I couldn't get up. I was laying down in more ways than

one. I felt the Lord nudging me to get up, but I just couldn't get up. All I could do is lie there.

That was the first time that I had ever experienced depression. I am glad that I experienced it, because there are so many people, young and old, that are bound with that nasty devil. When I experienced it, then I could help them. That is the first time that I heard an eagle at my house. He was calling outside of my window. The scripture kept coming to me, Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." I still couldn't get up. Then the Lord spoke to me, "Haven't I sent you an eagle." God used that eagle to get me up. The more that I heard that eagle's cry, the more I felt God's strength. I was able to get up.

I want to add a thought here. I think that the reason why I went through this time when I totally lost my strength to be able to get up and my desire even to get up was because of this. I sometimes will work for the Lord giving my all and pouring all I have out. The Lord showed me something. He had me to read Luke 23:26 where Simon carried the Lord's cross. He showed me that when Simon died he went to be with the One whose cross he carried. He showed me that He honored Simon for carrying His cross. Then He told me that I did not have to carry His cross. I didn't have to carry His load on my shoulders because He

was well able to carry it now. Simon carried His cross when He was not able to do so, but He is more than able to do it now. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is almighty. He is the great I am. He did not need me to carry anything for Him.

He showed me that it is His school and His children that He has sent and He would take care of them. He showed me that it was His college and His Word was being carried, and His will was being done. I was just to obey Him as He leads. He showed me that it was His church and His ministry. None of these things were mine. It is His. I am to follow Him with all of my heart going where He leads and obeying Him. I am to let Him use my hands and feet and mouth flowing with Him in the Spirit yielding to Him, flowing with Him in the Spirit. I was to flow in the Holy Ghost not swim against the current. I was getting worn out because I wasn't doing that.

If you are getting worn out in serving God, it may be because you are trying to carry His cross. He does not need you to. Let Him carry the cross and flow in His Spirit. Yield to Him and to His Word and to His Spirit. He will build your ministry. Psalms 127:1 says, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Know that if God doesn't do it, if God doesn't build your ministry than it will not accomplish anything of value. Let Him do that. Yield to Him and flow with Him. Flow in His

anointing. He will build the house. I believe that the main reason why I got so burned out is that I was not walking in the Spirit. That is so important. This happens when you yield to His Spirit and flow in it. I have a whole chapter coming up about what this means and how to do it.

Well, finally I'm back to talking about my eagles. God also used the eagles to teach me how to yield and flow in Him. When God sent me that first eagle, that was the first time that I knew there were eagles at our house. There was a pair of golden eagles that took up residence there. They soon had three little ones. I got to watch the parents teach the little ones how to fly. I had always heard of how the parent eagles would push the little ones out of the nest. I got to hear that in action. One day I heard a terrible squawking and thrashing going on in their nest. Directly one of the little ones took to the sky. It wasn't long until all three of them were flying. The mother and dad were flying around them to be sure all went well.

The next time God used the eagles to help me was a time when I began to lose the love that God gave me for the children in the school and the people we reached with the college. I was trying to carry them all in the natural and it was wearing me down. My love started to die because I wasn't able to help them all. God knew this. That is when He sent an eagle to renew my love. I was not flowing with God, yielding to His Spirit. I was paying the price for that.

My eagle was one of three babies in the family that lived in the trees outside of our yard. He was the runt of the bunch. For some reason, his parents and siblings left and he was left all alone there. He would fly up and down and cry a mournful cry. He cried so much that I began to recognize his voice. It was heart breaking to hear. I got in the habit of talking to him to calm him down. He would sit in the tree and listen and talk back to me. We'd do this sometimes for 30 minutes or more. God gave me a connection and a love for that little guy.

Our church and ministry headquarters is not far from my house and he started following me to work. One day I heard him outside of my office and went out to talk to him, and there were some birds that were attacking him. He was weak and he wasn't able to fly high enough. Other birds that were nesting saw him as a threat and would flog him. He was trying to come to me to get help. There was nothing in the natural that I could do to help him. I knew that. All I could do was trust God to help him.

The next day I was working in my garden and he flew right eye level to me with another bunch of birds after him. This kept happening. God gave me a great love and a connection with him. When I woke up I'd look out my kitchen window and he would be sitting out in the field looking for me. If I didn't go out, he would fly up on our roof. There is nothing as noisy as an eagle on a tin roof. Because there was nothing in the

natural I could do I learned to pray instead of reaching out physically to help him. This conditioned me. I had to go to God just to be able to help Him. I couldn't do anything to help him in the flesh, but I had to pray. All the help that I could give Him was spiritual.

As time went on, I learned how to do the same with the people that God had placed me with. I learned not to try to carry them in the natural and I learned to pray for them and give them to the Lord. As time went on, my love returned and it was richer than ever before because this time I was able to love them with His love. I was able to flow in Him to reach them. When I became so weak that I was losing my love for others, God didn't rebuke me. He didn't judge me. He didn't turn away in disgust because of my weakness, but He enabled me. He made me strong where my weakness was. I am so thankful for His grace and His mercy. And for His great wisdom.

When I think of how God enables us to do what He calls us to do, I always think of Bishop Goad and the radio stations. Our ministry operates three radio stations: two AM tower stations and a 24-hour preaching internet station. When we first got the stations, we had an engineer that helped for a time. Brother Goad became the engineer. He would pray about how to take care of things that would happen with the station. God would show him what needed to be done.

It was around 2002 when we started the stations. One of the AM stations was in our town, just down the street from our main office at the time. The other was in Floyd, VA which was 45 minute drive away. God showed him how to put the programming on the internet. Then it went through the internet to the station and there it played through the towers. When he came up with the idea, everyone told him that it couldn't be done.

People who had been in the radio business for years said that there was no way. He didn't listen to what everyone said, but he heard God tell him how it could be done. He followed the Lord's directions and everyone was amazed at how well it worked. God can enable you to do what seemingly everyone says can't be done. (I just want to add a note here. The stations had to run through the internet to play. There were many times, not just once but many times, when the internet would be off at both locations but the station still played. God connected it all together and it flowed through Him.)

Our school kept growing. We came to the place where I needed someone to come and help out full time to be able to do all the grading and recording the grades. God showed me that He would send someone and He would train them to do what was needed. He told me that they would be able to do everything that was needed with very little training because He would enable them to do what needed to be done. God sent

Tina Everheart. She had never worked in an office or a school. But she walked in the door able to do what we needed done.

She fit perfectly with all of us and fit perfectly with the vision that we have for the school. God enabled her to do what was needed and gave her a heart to walk with us. Her dedication and love really inspire us. We know without a doubt that God sent her. I believe that God is going to do that more and more not only for us but for all ministries who are walking with Him. He is going to save people and equip them to be preachers, and workers for the Lord. He is going to do a quick work and He will train them Himself and enable them to do what He has for them to do.

Sometimes we think that we can't do something for the Lord like preaching because we don't have the formal education that we need. Now I believe in education. We operate the college and help train workers to go out for the Lord. But we know that the training that God gives is far greater than what our college can give. I think of the example of John Williams. God used him to be a missionary to the islands around Tahiti in the early 1800's. He used him to train workers and send out missionaries who led thousands of people to the Lord.

He was an iron worker who learned to read and write in school, but had little formal training beyond middle

school. God gave him an ability to learn languages. Each of the islands he ministered in spoke a different dialect. He would pick up a language and be able to preach in that language in a matter of a few months. He later helped translate the Bible into some of the dialects. One of the things that he learned to do was to build sailing ships with primitive tools. I mean huge sailing ships complete with rigging and sails. God enabled him to do what He called him to do.

When I think of how God enables us, I right away think of Gideon. His story starts in Judges 6. He was a farmer at a time when Israel was being taken over by the Midianites who were a cruel people. They were as many as grasshoppers and they did what grasshoppers do when they come as a plague. They would come through an area and destroy all life there so that there was nothing alive left. They would kill and steal as they went. God heard the Israelite's prayers and had a plan to deliver them using Gideon.

Gideon's story starts when an angel appears to him and says, "The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valor." Then the angel tells him he has been chosen to lead Israel to victory over the Midianites. To sum up Gideon's answer, he basically tells the angel that he is a loser from a family of losers so why would the angel think that he could anything like that. The angel then brought fire out of a rock and disappeared. Gideon definitely knew that he had spoken with an angel. After his conversation with the

angel, Gideon asked God to do a couple of things that were miraculous and God did them. He did that so that he could definitely beyond any shadow of any doubt know that God had told him to do this. You'd think that after speaking with an angel he would know that this message was from God. I guess he was subconsciously wishing that God wouldn't do these things he asked. To sum it all up God did and Gideon did.

I think one of the things that blesses me the most about this story is that when we read it we can see that Gideon basically was a coward. But when the angel addressed him he called him a mighty man of valor. God didn't laugh at him for his fear. He didn't put him down. He didn't use someone else to do the job. He enabled Gideon. After God was done with him, he was just that, a mighty man of valor. But when his story opens, that is not true.

How did God give him the courage that enabled him to overcome his fear? One of the things that God did was He told Gideon to go into the Midianite camp. He sneaked in at night. He was listening outside of one of the tents. A soldier told another soldier about a dream that he had. He told him that he had seen a cake of barley bread that rolled into a tent and tore the tent down. His fellow soldier asked him what that meant. He answered. "This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the

host." Can you imagine how that boosted Gideon's faith?

Gideon really needed his faith. 30,000 Israelite soldiers gathered to go with Gideon. When you consider though that the Midianite army was so many it was like a swarm of grasshoppers, that wasn't enough. God told Gideon to send everybody home except for 300 soldiers. In His answer that He gave Gideon as to why he needed to do this we get a glimpse of what it means to walk with God.

God is God. He doesn't have to walk by the ordinary rules of man. He told Gideon, "The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me." In other words, He didn't even need their help to conquer them. He could do that on His own like maybe calling fire down form heaven like He did on occasion. He allowed Israel to help Him. He didn't want them to say later that they had done it on their own.

To make a long story short, Gideon's band of 300 chased away the armies of Midian and they didn't even have to fight. You'll have to read the story to see. God chose a weak man and made Him a mighty man of valor. What can He do with you? Just be willing and obedient. If Gideon had refused to go, then He would never have seen what God could use

Him to do. If God is telling you to do something, then do it. You will miss out on a lot if you don't. By the way, please read Gideon's story because it will really bless you.

When I think of how other people in the Bible who God empowered to do what he called them to do, I think of David, the shepherd boy who became king. I am reminded of Nehemiah who was the King's cup bearer that God used to rebuild Jerusalem after it had been destroyed. Of the fisherman that became fishers' of men because they followed Jesus. The Bible is full of people who God enabled to do great and mighty things through faith in Him.

When we need strength to be able to do what He calls us to do, He can strengthen us with His Spirit. When we need gifts, He gives us what we need to enable us. When we need wisdom He gives us wisdom to be the leader that He has called us to be. When we need abilities, He can give us the abilities that we need. We can do the things that He calls us to do. We just have to step out and obey Him and he will give us what we need to get the job done. If we hang back and we fail to obey Him, we will miss out on the chance of a lifetime. If we obey Him, we will be able to do what He calls us to do.

I want to give a caution here to close this chapter. I have gone through a season when God did not give me what I needed to do to be able to get the job done.

I no longer had His strength. I no longer had the ability that I needed to get the job done. What happened was simple. God was getting ready to expand our ministry and I was going to have to have help. God was sending help. So I had to stop doing things on my own to be ready to receive the help He was sending. One of the hardest times I have been through was when the Lord took away His help. If this happens to you, maybe you need to consider this.

Another reason why the Lord will stop giving you the ability to do what you are doing is if it is no longer God's will for you to do this. I can remember when we went through a financial difficulty. We prayed and asked God to show us what was going on. There were some things that we were failing God in and He had pulled back His anointing because of that. Then when we corrected these things, His anointing returned. This will also happen if what you are doing is not in God's plan, if it isn't His will. If that happens you will feel constantly like you are climbing a sand mountain. If this happens, ask Him to show you what you are doing that is not in His perfect will and plan and obey Him and correct it.

I want to close this chapter by giving scriptures about how God enables you. I may have already put some of them, but I want to write them again. Ephesians 2:10, 'For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." 2 Corinthians

3:6, “Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.” Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Ephesians 4:11-16, “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

As a reminder, to be used by God you don’t have to be perfect. You have to be willing to serve Him at all costs. What will enable you to do that is having a great love for Him and for others. Then you have to obey Him as He leads you. Obey Him in the small things and He will get you ready to do big things for Him.

This is a prayer that Paul prayed in Hebrews 13:20-21. “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Let this prayer be a prayer that you pray. Pray that He will work in you that which is pleasing and that which brings glory to Him.

Chapter 5
Stories About the Power of God's Word

From the time that I was saved and many times since there have been a lot of scriptures that picked me up, that helped me win the fight against the devil, that strengthened me to stand, that guided me, that encouraged me, that enabled me, that empowered me to be able to obey God, that straightened up my head when it was full of the world's trash, that cleaned up my heart, that gave me hope. God's Word has the power to do all of those things.

God's Word had the power to create the universe. It has the power to put in motion things today that it spoke about thousands of years ago. Even though people wrote it, they wrote it under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Countless of times in the scriptures people who God used to write the words found there would say, "The Word of the Lord came to me." They wrote what God directed them to write. It is His Words and that is why the Bible has such power. I want to share with you some of my favorite scriptures and share with you what I was going through when the Lord used them in my life.

God's Word is powerful. It will work in our lives. It will do what God sets it forth to do. Jeremiah 55:22 says, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in

the thing whereto I sent it." It will also do a work in you. It is my prayer that these scriptures will come alive in you if you are going through what I went through when God used these scriptures in my life.

When I was first saved, I carried a lot of baggage from my past. I also carried a lot of condemnation because of that baggage. Here are verses that the Lord used often, and has used down through the years. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This scripture is a picture of God's grace and His love. It is probably the most quoted scripture. It reminds you that God will forgive you because He sent His son to die to forgive you. Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." This reminds us that if we walk in the spirit, then there is no condemnation.

It is the devil that condemns us. God convicts us and conviction starts us on the road to life. The devil condemns us. He grinds every mistake, every weakness, every thing that we have done in our face to destroy us with guilt. This scripture reminds us that in Christ there is no condemnation, but forgiveness and the promise of new life. Revelation 21:5, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for

these words are true and faithful." These verses remind me that God makes all things new. I don't need to look at the mistakes of the past, but at the new creation that God is making me to be.

For years the devil fought our ministry trying to stop us. We had to go from touch to touch of God's anointing. We had to fight for our health and well being. We had to fight to keep our heads up above defeat in our finances. People would come to help us, and things would happen to their health or their finances and they would no longer be able to help us. We struggled to get everything done. We would take three steps forward and he would knock us two steps back. It felt like we were struggling up a sand mountain. Here are some of the scriptures that carried us through this time.

Isaiah 45:2, "I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron." Zechariah 4:6, "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Isaiah 66:9, "Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb saith thy God." Habakkuk 2:3, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." 1

Corinthians 10:13, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” Nehemiah 8:10b, “….for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Isaiah 43:2, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Here are more verses. James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Joshua 21:43-45, “And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”

I remember a time when the Lord gave my husband and I a word. I will tell the whole story in the chapter about how God provides, but I’ll give here a little preview. We went through a time when we nearly lost all that we owned. The operative word there is nearly.

We nearly did but we didn't. God's Word kept us during that time. We held onto the promises in God's Word. It worked. We had everything we needed when it was needed. A bill would come and about that time the money would come to pay it. We went through this time for over a year. God kept us financially. His promises were true. I'll tell more about this time in our life coming up in a later chapter. These scriptures kept us during that time. We had to look more to the Word of God then we looked at our circumstance and God brought us through it all with the victory.

Here are some of the verses that held us through this time. Psalms 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Psalms 23:1-3, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Luke 6:48, "He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."

All of these verses are promises for you as well. There is a lot of fear going around that started during

covid and is still binding up many of God's people as well as those who don't know the Lord. During covid, this scripture kept us. We read in 2 timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." This is also a favorite verse when I am going through times when the devil is creating confusion and causing us to not have a clear mind. We have the mind of Christ because He is inside of us. Because of that we have a clear mind. Even when there is a lot of confusion, even when there is a lot of stress and stress clouds your thinking, even when the world is going crazy and you don't know how to think. God gives us a sound mind. This also reminds us that God's Spirit gives us power, love, and a sound mind in the place of fear.

I remember a time when I lost 5 people who were close to me in just a few months. This included my mother and sister. When it seemed like I was going to be destroyed with grief, I remembered this verse. John 15:26 says "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even he Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." The Spirit of God is a wonderful comforter. I had no idea how powerful His comfort is until I went through this time. God's Spirit and the prayers of those around me held me.

Here are other scriptures that kept me during this time. Isaiah 61:3, "To appoint unto them that mourn

in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. Revelations 21:4, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

These are only a few of the scriptures that have been powerful in my life. God’s Word will raise you up out of the lowest valley and set you up on a mountain top of victory. God’s Word will empower you and strengthen you. Take in God’s Word daily. We take our daily vitamins. God’s Word can do way more for us than vitamins can.

Just as powerful in our lives are the Words that God speaks to our hearts. These are promises that He makes. We can depend on those words. We trust in Him to fulfill the promises that He makes. Like the word that He spoke to me as I stood by that river in the Ukraine when He said you will have an international ministry. That really seemed far out when He spoke it. Now over 30 years later it isn’t at all a wild prediction, but it is exactly what happened. When God speaks a Word, it comes with the power to make it come about.

I remember a tent meeting we were in. God spoke to me that He would use me to minister to others. I was shy at the time and didn't see how that could happen. But that Word that He gave me stuck in my spirit. I remember that we had straw on the ground under the tent. I picked up a piece of straw to remember this by. Later I taped it onto a page of my Bible.

I found that piece of straw not long ago and it reminded me of that Word God gave me. It is really worn and almost falling to pieces. The tape had turned brown. I thought how God had told me that I would minister to others and how He had made me able to do just that. He had worked in me to do what I thought at the time was impossible. His promise, His Word that He gave me, came about.

I remember a word that the Lord gave me. I was walking down a hallway ad I began to hear voices. But they weren't speaking in English. It was like hundreds of voices in all kinds of different languages. They were praising the Lord. They were praising the Lord for what our ministry had helped them do. They weren't praising us. If you want to touch the Lord's heart to unlock His promises, this is an important thing to remember. You have to give God the glory. If you lift your own self up or you lift up your ministry, then you will set yourself up for failure. These people were not praising us or lifting us up, but they were praising the Lord for how He had used us to help them. Now years later those voices are real as

they say thank you. Thank you for letting God use you to help us in our ministry.

One of the most profound Words that the Lord gave us was one that He first spoke to Jackie, Bishop Goad's wife. The first time that she said what the Lord showed her, I remember thinking that this was ridiculous, that it just couldn't happen. The word He gave her was that we would be a ministry that no longer borrowed, but we would lend. At that time we were buried in debt. I just shook my head and said, that won't happen. Jackie refused to give into doubt. She took God as His Word. That is what faith does. A little later I began to see how God was bringing that Word about in our finances. Today we do not owe anything. We are able to give financial support to other ministries. Why? God kept the Word that He gave us.

I will share with you just how profound this promise was. I can remember when I first became a part of this ministry, Bishop Goad was a master at being able to save money and use what we had. He depended on the Lord by faith to meet our needs. We were always having to work on the tent trucks and vehicles we had. Then little by little they became newer vehicles and buses. We still saved and didn't waste anything, not like a lot of ministries that were around us that took in money by the thousands of dollars and had no respect to the sacrifices made of those who gave. We were grateful to everyone who gave and

mindful that some of them gave to us in their need. I believe that is part of the reason why God blessed our finances. We showed respect to His people who gave.

We are still holding on to promises that God has made, especially concerning our church. One such word is that we would fix the terrible drug problem in our area by reaching one addict at a time and one drug dealer at a time. God can do that, and He has promised that He will. We can take Him at His Word.

I want to say something again that I have said all the way through this book. I am not writing this to brag about ourselves, but to brag on the power of God in His Word. I want to remind you that God is not a respecter of persons. What He does for one He will do for others. Lay hold of the promises that God has made you. They will come about. There were a lot of times that we almost gave up on the promise he made. One example of that is the promise He made that we would be lenders and not borrowers. If we had given up and stopped believing we wouldn't see the reality of what God has done. Hold on to those promises. We especially hold to the promises that seem impossible. They are not impossible for God.

I want to close this chapter with giving you some verses that talk about the power of God's Word. Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in

the thing whereto I sent it." Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Here are more verses. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." Matthew 24:32-35, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. "

Hold to the promises that God gives you whether it be promises that are found in His Word or the promises that He has spoken to your heart. Hold on to His promises. Remember them. Write them down. Then write down when they become a reality.

Chapter 6
How God Provides

In this chapter I am going to tell accounts of how God has provided for my husband and me and for the ministry. I will also share stories about how God provided for others. Now I am reminding you again that what God does for one He will do for you. Acts 10:34 says, Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." What He did for us, He will do for you.

Now obedience is the key to unlock His Word and His promises. I've mentioned several times how if I hadn't obeyed God the thing that happened wouldn't have happened. For example in the story about how God used my floor mats to save my life, if I hadn't stopped to get my floor mats in, then I would have been killed. We have to obey God for Him to protect us. We have to obey God for Him to provide for us. Sometimes we don't get blessed supernaturally because we aren't in the right place at the right time. Think of this as you read the true stories of how God has provided for His people.

There is a reason why I wanted to include this chapter in this book. Things are looking bad. People are struggling to be able to provide for their families. The money train pulled up and dumped out all kinds of free money. It stayed long enough for us to get used to having it. It stayed long enough for us to become

reliant on it. Then it pulled off. Now if you want to make it, you have to rely on God and trust Him to keep you. You have to listen to His voice and do what He says. He will provide all you need and He will even bless you tremendously in the hard times. And He won't have to use the government to do it.

Matthew 6:25-34 is a story that Jesus told about how God takes care of His people. "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no

thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Do we have to be afraid? Do we have to worry because times are hard? Does God's Word stop working because times are hard? Does God's promises stop working because times are hard? You know the answers to all of those questions.

The first story that I want to tell is the beginning of my learning how God could provide. I mentioned when I first joined New Life Ministries they had a gospel tent and a team of young people traveled with them. Brother Goad was very strict on how he spent the offerings that were given to him. He used those strictly to provide for the expenses of the meeting. We did not spend money that we had taken in the offerings for food or for our personal expenses. So we had to to rely on the Lord for those. There were many times when we had to pray down our meals. God would provide. I already mentioned about how God grew spaghetti. He did a lot of miracles to take care of us.

We would pray each day for the things that we needed. I can remember one time that the boys wanted a chocolate cake. We prayed for it and that very day someone brought in a chocolate cake. I can remember one time that we asked for a can of cream to put in our coffee. We had searched the cabinets

over and there was no cream. We went about our days work. Later we opened the cabinet and there sitting in the very front was a can of cream. No one had brought in any food donations. It was a brand name of a store that wasn't even a local chain. God will give you the desires of your heart.

I can remember when Bojangles first started. We really wanted to try Bojangles chicken. A man came by and brought us Bojangles for all of the team. That was no small thing because we had about 14 people all together. We had never met that man and never saw him after that. I wonder if angels deliver chicken.

Sometimes God will cause things to happen that build your faith. God did something that I can say really changed my life. I think of this many times. We would have several vehicles when we traveled including the big tent truck. At one time it was a tractor trailer. I had my Volkswagen van that I stayed in at one time. I was always at the last of the line. Brother Goad would fill up the vehicles and for some reason when he got to me he would run out of money. I never will forget the first time that he told me, "Sandy, you are going to have to take it in this time by faith. We had to travel a long distance. Even though I had very little gas, I had enough gas to get where we were going.

This happened many times. I remember at first that I had to put something on the dash to cover up the gas gauge because I didn't want to see that E staring me in the face. The more it happened the more my faith grew. Sometimes our faith isn't growing because we don't step out in faith. My faith grew and my trust in God did too. I am so thankful for that lesson that I learned. It has been a stepping stone that has grown into faith for standing in many different things down through the years.

When I think of how God provides, I think of how God provided for my husband and me during a really, really hard time. I've mentioned it briefly before, but I want to tell the whole story in this chapter. Especially pay attention to how God used our obedience. Jim, my husband found out that he had Parkinson. They fired him at his job. We had a little money coming in.

I can tell you that I got really stressed out over this. We had a lot of debt. Plus he lost his insurance and he was having to go to neurologists. They required a lot of expensive tests. I had gone through a stupid time when I had gotten on the credit card train. Don't ever get on that one. They are designed to sink you. We also had two houses to pay for, one that we had tried to sell for over 10 years. It looked like we were going to lose our vehicles and our houses.

Jim had gotten really bad. He tried to walk around the house three times a day and that was all he could manage. The future didn't look very bright for him. It looked like he would need a lot of medical help. We were looking to redo our bathroom to make the shower and toilet accessible for him and looking to eventually make it wheelchair accessible. We had little money coming in at that time and we had a lot of bills.

I started having chest pains because I let all of this get to me. Out of desperation one day I just turned it loose and gave it to the Lord. I had come to the end of what I could go through. I couldn't handle it. I knew He could. I put it all in His hands.

That is when things changed. I began to see God do miracles in our finances. A bill would be due and the money would come just in time. God would tell me what to pay and then send the money we needed to pay it. Credit card companies wrote off some of our debt. Neurologists wrote off what we owed. The extra house we had that we had tried to sell for 10 years sold during that time.

I began to write down all of the miracles that God did to get us through this time. I went back and added all of the things that God had miraculously paid. We paid off over $90,000 of things with little money coming in. we didn't lose our vehicles or our homes.

The bank didn't win over our situation, but praise God we did.

The key that God gave us to unlock us from this situation was our obedience. He would tell us what to pay and send the money. Afterwards, we would find out that this company was about ready to send a judgment against us. We went through this time and didn't have any company to take us to court because we couldn't pay.

Step by step God led us out of this valley. When the Lord leads you out of a valley, you have to obey Him to follow where He leads you. I can truly say that at first fear and stress scrambled my brain so that I couldn't hear His voice. As I watched Him work though, this changed and my mind cleared and I could hear Him and obey Him. If you are going through a valley, then ask God to clear your mind and heart from fear.

Keep in mind that the devil is the author of fear. Fear is the opposite of faith and it will steal your faith. When you feel fear coming against you, take authority over it. When you are in the valley, fear is the number one thing that the devil will use against you. Don't allow it to stay. This verse is a good one to remember when you feel fear coming against you. We have mentioned it before, but I want to mention it again. 2 timothy 1:7 says "For God hath not given us the spirit

of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a *sound* mind."

God provided everything we needed during this valley time. He will do the same for you. If you are going through a financial storm, then remember that God will provide for you even if He has to do a miracle to bring you out. One of the greatest blessings that came out of this time was our home. We had to sell our home. We didn't have a place to go. We couldn't find a place to rent. It got down to the place where we had run out of time. We were having to move out but had no place to go.

I remember I was driving down the road bawling my eyes out. God told me to turn up the street I was passing by. Then He told me to turn in at this white house. It looked like someone was living there. There were no signs up saying it was for rent. I sat there and I thought to myself what am I supposed to do now. A lady pulled up at the house next door. I asked if she knew if that house was for rent. She told me that she didn't but that the lady who owned the house lived next door. I went to talk to her. I told her that the Lord told me to so I did. She answered, "I know why you stopped here. It was because last week I had prayed for a Christian renter."

That was over 15 years ago. We found the place that perfectly fit into our lives and really helped my husband and I to be healthier and happier. Our land

lady has become a dear friend and a great help to me. One of the things she does is proof read my books. She has a great gift for that. All of you that read my books are blessed by her labor and it takes a lot of time to do that. This is the place where God is still taking care of us. God provided for us and still is.

I can remember another time when God provided for us. We needed a loan to get a vehicle. I was led to go to a bank that wasn't my bank to apply for the loan. A friend had recommended it. It was her bank. I went in and asked the person at the front desk if I could see a loan officer. She asked my name. I told her and she said "We have been expecting you." Then she led me back to the loan officer. I was a little amazed at this but thought my friend must have told them that I was coming. I was given the loan on the spot. I knew that this was all a miracle when I later asked my friend if she had told them I was coming. She said no, and I knew she was telling the truth because she didn't even know when I was going to go. God had gone before me.

God will especially provide for you when you are obeying Him. I remember when God told us to start a Christian school how God provided everything we needed to be able to do that. I have told about this in another part of the book. Always remember that if God tells you to do something He will provide what you need to be able to get it done.

This next story happened at a time when we were really struggling in our finances. Our ministry and church were housed in what had been a factory. We had gotten it to house our food bank ministry. At one time we distributed food to nonprofit organizations for 14 cents a pound. For example a pound of coffee cost them 14 cents. We sorted salvage that was donated to us and sold that. I remember in 3 years we distributed over a million pounds of food. We had our own trucking company to haul food because we distributed so much. We distributed it to nonprofit organizations like church food banks, children's homes, homes for the elderly, social services, any service organization.

We moved into a factory that we had purchased to be able to house our food program. It worked great for a bunch of years. Our food ministry faded out due to changes, and we no longer needed all that room. We had for several years operated a huge thrift store to help those in need. Then the roof started to leak. It was a huge building and it wasn't practical to spend the money it would cost us to fix the roof. The Lord showed us that it was time to move. We started praying that our building would sell. A Jew from New York City bought our building. As part of the agreement, we were able to stay in the building for 5 years rent free. Just before it was time for us to move, a church building came available that was just down the street from where we were. We were able to purchase it and pay it off not long after.

When I talk about how God provides, I have to tell about how God enabled us to pay cash for a new metal roof on our church. We had a shingle roof on our church and when the wind blew the shingles would just lift up. We knew that in a strong wind it could just lift up and blow away. We talked with some people about putting it on, but they wanted a huge unfair amount of money to do it. He also tried to get a loan, but nothing worked out. It didn't work out because God knew something we didn't know (doesn't He always).

God led us to hire a young man to do the work. We had known him from the time when he was little. He had been through a rough patch and had been in jail for a while. He was out and wanted to start his own business. We asked him to do the work. When we got the right person to do the work, the money came. It miraculously came. They were going over our accounts. They found an account that had just enough to pay cash for our roof (and it wasn't cheap). Now we aren't the sort of ministry that can have that much cash in an account and not know about it. We usually spend every dime we have twice if we can. God had supplied our need.

The thing that made this an even greater miracle is that this happened in the middle of covid. The money that we were taking in was down in all of our departments. The school wasn't taking in much. The colleges weren't paying much. The radio stations

weren't taking in much. Everything everywhere was going through a hard time. God provided the funds we needed in the middle of all of that. He will do the same for you and for your ministry. Just hold on to Him and trust Him. If you are obeying Him, He will make a way for you.

A friend of mine told me this true story of something that happened when he was a youngster. They lived way out in the country miles away from the nearest store. There was a terrible snow storm. They were snowed in for weeks. They couldn't get out and no one could get in to them. They had a large family. It wasn't long before they totally ran out of food and that wasn't a situation that needed to happen under the circumstances. One morning they looked out their door and there was a huge box of groceries there on the porch. The strange things about it was they knew that no one could have brought it to them. Especially when they noticed that threre were no footprints in the snow. God had done their grocery shopping and it was just enough to get them through the hard time.

When I think about how God provides for us, I think of the story of George Muller. George had orphan houses in England in the late 1800's. His story is a story of faith. He depended on God to take care of the children under his care. I remember reading about one time when he had to feed 300 orphans who were there at the orphanages. One morning they didn't have anything to eat. He had all of the 300 children to sit

at their seats at the usual time and told them that God would provide a meal for them.

One lady came in and told them that she had woke up that morning with an urgent feeling that she needed to bake bread for the orphans. She delivered that bread not long after they sat down. Next a milkman arrived. He told them that the wheels of his carriage had come off in front of the orphanage and that if he didn't deliver the milk to someone soon it would not be good. He asked them it they could use any milk.

You should read George Muller's story. It is filled with hundreds of such times when God provided. At the time of his death he had personally provided care for over 10,000 orphans. A newspaper printed his story when he died. The writer of the article said this. "How was this wonder accomplished. Mr. Muller has told the world that it was a result of prayer. The rationalism of this day will sneer at this declaration but the facts remain."

I am reminded of Elijah and the widow woman. You can read this story starting in 1 Kings 17:7. Let me sum it up. There was a famine in the land. God told Elijah to go to a widow. When he came to her house, she was baking a cake using the last of the meal and oil that she had. She and her son were going to eat the cake and then die. God had other plans. She gave the last bit of meal and oil that she had to bake a cake for Elijah. That was the end of her need. As long as

the drought and the famine lasted, they did not run out of the meal and oil that she had. She gave what she had left to Elijah and God blessed her and multiplied what she had.

Not only does God provide physical things we need but He also provides other things like strength, peace, comfort. These things are more important than physical things that He provides. If He didn't provide us the spiritual things that we need, then we wouldn't make it. I mentioned briefly in a previous chapter about a time when I lost 5 people who were close to me. All of this was in just a few months.

Our pastor's wife died unexpectedly, at least unexpected to us. A couple of months after that my sister found out that she had a cancerous brain tumor. Three days after that my mother just fell over dead. She hadn't even been sick. 9 months later my sister died. Just a few months after that the man who had originally founded our college died. Later another close friend died. This was such a hard time in my life that I refer to it as being the valley of the shadow of death. I didn't even have time to mourn from one loss to another.

I can truly say that loss and stress and grief ruled in my life for a while. It was like I got PTSD and every time I would hear a siren I would freak out inside wondering who else had died. If it wasn't for the Holy Ghost's comfort I would not have made it through this

time. Until I went through this time, I did not truly know what this meant. God's Spirit comforted me and got me through this valley. Another thing that helped is that I could literally feel the prayers that others were praying for me. I could feel the strength of God when I didn't have strength to go on. God provides the spiritual things we need as well as the physical.

There have been many times down through the years when I have run on God's strength because mine ran out. During our tent crusade days, we did over 300 services in a year. We sometimes would hold two services-one in the day and one at night. I can remember that we would set up the tent. We would hold a service there, then travel states away to be able to have church Sunday morning in our home church. Then we would travel back and hold service that night back under the tent. We did that going without sleep. When our strength was gone, we learned how to rely on God's strength. We have had to do that many times through the years.

We read in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." What is Paul saying here

in this passage? He had learned that when his strength was gone, he had to rely on God's strength to keep going. He had learned that God's strength was all that he needed. Because of that he gloried in his weaknesses because he learned that when he was weakest he was strong in God because he wasn't relying on his own strength to get him through. God will give you physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual strength to stand when you can't stand.

I can truly say that God gives peace. Especially in today's crazy world we need peace. Peace is the opposite of fear and fear has had control in lots of people's minds and hearts especially since covid and all the changes it brought. There are so many people whose hearts and minds are literally failing them with fear. I can remember that there were a lot of churches that closed during covid outbreak and haven't reopened since because fear took them over. We kept on going because God gave us peace in the middle of the storm. Hold on to peace. God will supply you His sweet peace through His spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 talks about the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." What is this talking about? When you study the nature of the Holy Ghost, the nature of God, then these are their qualities, their attributes, their nature. When you have the Spirit of God in you, then you have these qualities

in you. When you yield to the Spirit of God in you, then you will have these qualities. The key word in this verse is OF. These are the qualities of the Spirit. I used to think that these were qualities we needed to have on our own. Then I would feel condemned because so often I lacked these qualities. Then God showed me the Word of in this verse. It is the qualities of the Spirit of God. When we yield to the Spirit of God, then we will take on His qualities. He will supply us with all we need in the spiritual as well as the physical.

Here are some scriptures about how God provides. Some of them I have written before, but the more you hear them, the better you will remember them. Like this one. Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Psalms 145:14-18, "The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." Psalms 84:11-13, "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

I want to mention something that really puts a bad taste in my mouth. There are a lot of television and internet evangelists that teach that you have to sow money to reap money. You have to give to receive. Now I believe in tithing. That means giving 10% of your income to the church. When you do that, the Bible says that God will rebuke the devourer that comes against you. I have seen this work.

You can't out-give God. I remember a time when I tried to. I would write down what I gave and I would write down what He gave to me and I couldn't even come close to what He blessed me with because I gave. I believe in giving. But these false teachers and evangelists are talking about giving to make themselves rich. They even say that you have to give to their ministry before God will bless you. This is a lie and they will burn in hell unless they repent because they are deceiving God's people and stealing from them. Don't be taken in by their lies. The motive behind this kind of teaching is to become rich. My husband and I looked up the income of some of these evangelists and their net worth is 5 to 20 million dollars.

Just because there are counterfeit people who are telling lies, that doesn't take away from God's principles. They work. I have seen this many times in my own life and in the lives of others. When you pay tithes, your finances and your lives will be blessed. If you don't, then you won't receive that blessing.

Malachi 3:8-12 tells us “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.” God says to you, Try me and see what I will do for you. Proverbs 3:9-10, “Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”

Here are more scriptures about giving. Luke 6:38, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Ecclesiastes 11:1 says, “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days” I can honestly tell you without a doubt in my mind that you can’t out- give God.

There is one thing that I will caution you about here. Give as He leads. I have known people who gave but it wasn't giving what He led them to give. Without wisdom they would give their rent money away or something like that. God didn't bless that. Give as He leads. When you do, He will bless you.

I remember one time when a friend and I were attending a Christian meeting in a restaurant. It was hosting a missionary who was telling about his work in a foreign country. God led me to put every bit of money that I had with me into his offering. The problem with that was that we had to pay for our meal and we hadn't done that. Also, I had told the lady with me that I would pay for her meal. She was an elderly lady and I knew that she didn't have money to pay for hers. I obeyed by faith. After the meeting was over we got in line to pay for our food. I don't mind telling you that I was a little hesitant to be in that line. I got all the way up to the register. I had no idea what I was going to do. Then to my great relief and lady behind us in line said, "The Lord has led me to pay for her meal". She pointed to me." That was a great relief, but I still had to pay for the other lady's meal. Then she added, "And I want to pay for hers as well". If you obey the Lord He will enable you to obey Him and He will bless you.

You may not think that you have a lot to give. If God is leading you to give what you have, then don't refuse to obey Him because you think that what you

have is such a little amount that it won't make a big difference. When you feel that way, remember this. Mark 12:41-44 tells about a widow that put 2 mites into the offering. That amount was equal to about ¼ of a penny. "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." I think that the best thing about this story is that God chose to put her story in the Bible. Look how many people through time have read her story. She got Jesus' attention. If God leads you to give and you just have a little, don't be ashamed to give.

I think of another story that illustrates this. It is the story of the little boy who gave his dinner to Jesus. Jesus was preaching to about 5,000 men. I am sure that the crowd wasn't all just men because the little boy was there. So that meant the crowd might have been double that if not more. They were hungry. Jesus saw that and He had compassion on them.

Our Lord is a gracious host. His disciples searched through the crowd to find food. All they found was a little boy who had 5 loaves and 2 fishes. Jesus took

that and blessed those and fed all of those people plus they had 12 baskets of leftovers. Give what you have and in the hands of the Lord of all it will be multiplied. On the other hand, if God is leading you to give more, then give more. Obey Him.

I want to close this chapter by talking about something that we all know. It seems like the cost of living has gone up so much that it takes a miracle just to pay for groceries and gas. God has spoken to me about how He is taking care of His people. If it takes a miracle to pay for them, He will do that miracle. We don't have to be afraid. We have talked a lot about how God provides. He will provide for you. The times being hard doesn't limit what God can do.

We read in Exodus 10 the story about how Moses went to Pharaoh and asked him to let God's people go. Pharaoh refused to let them go. We read there the plagues that God sent against them. Here they are listed: water turning to blood, frogs, lice, flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the killing of firstborn children. The children of Israel lived in the land of Goshen. When these plagues were sent as judgment against Egypt, none of these things came to Goshen. The one that amazes me the most is the plague of darkness. Total darkness covered Egypt for 3 days. It was so dark that they couldn't get out of their chairs. But in the land of Goshen there was light in their dwellings.

We know that the times are getting harder because it will soon be time for the judgment of the earth. But as these times get harder God has a plan in place where He will take care of His people. Even if it means giving light in place of darkness. Even if it means putting food in our cabinet. Even if it means growing spaghetti. Even if it means that the vehicles run on empty tanks. Whatever it takes, He will take care of us. Not only will we be provided for, but we will be blessed. The world will know that there is a God who takes care of His people.

We do have to obey God. We have to do what He tells us to do so that we are in the right place for a blessing. Remember all that we have learned about the importance of obedience. Be a good listener. But don't just hear what God tells you to do. DO IT.

Chapter 7
God's Protection

When I think about how God has protected us through the years one of the most amazing times he protected us was a time during our tent crusade days. We were on our way back from taking the tent down. We only had a few people with us, not a whole team. The tent truck, a box truck, was in front with Brother Goad and his wife. Then there was a large passenger van that Suzanne, their daughter was driving with about 8 people in it. I was in a mini van with Brother Frank and his wife Shirley. These vehicles were all moving along at the same speed one right behind the other.

Everything was going fine until a guy fell asleep at the wheel of a tractor trailer. He was going about 80 when he hit the van that was in front of us. Now keep in mind that we were all right behind each other. He hit the van in front of us in the back and then went down the side of the vehicle. He did not hit our van. If he would have hit our mini van, we would not have lived through it. This was a huge tractor trailer. How did it hit them and not us? We have no idea how that happened. It was like we became like air and the tractor trailer went right through us.

The tractor trailer hit the passenger van that was in front of us. It hit it in the back, then peeled the side of it back much like opening a can of sardines. It hit the van with so much force that the front seats were

twisted back like a recliner and then they bent around. The people in the front seats didn't have their seat belts on. The ones in the next seat back went over the seats and landed on those in the front seats and kept them from going through the windshield.

Then the tractor trailer went on to hit the tent truck with such force that the bolts holding the box of the truck to the frame broke. The box part separated from the frame and was sitting over on the guard rail. Brother Goad's wife was in the cab. In her pocket book in a little pouch were her pills. The pill bottle broke. That was how hard the tractor trailer hit them.

When the rescue squad there heard the call, they sent in a helicopter to fly the survivors, if there were any. They were expecting to find a lot of seriously injured people and expected to find some dead. Imagine their surprise when they pulled up and we are all standing there beside the vehicle with only minor injuries. God had protected us through it all.

The rescue squad took us by their building to wait on a ride. We lost count of the rescue squad workers who came by to see us. They would come in and say, "Are these the people who walked out of that wreck?" We were happy to tell them about the One that had kept us and protected us. The paper in that town even printed an article about the miracle on the highway and they included pictures of the vehicles. No one doubted that it had been a miracle.

God protected and shielded all of us that day, but the biggest miracle that he did was turning us to air so that the tractor trailer passed through us. None of us that were in the mini van know what happened, but that doesn't matter. We know that it did. It is a miracle we often talk about when we get together. God protected us all that day. I believe that the devil was trying to wipe out the church leaders because we were all in that wreck. Again, his plan failed.

Another time that God protected us during the tent days was when a tornado went around the field where we had the tent set up. God had led us to let down the tent stakes and leave the tent staked down. The wind got up really strong but did no damage because we obeyed the Lord. (This reminds me of another time when I was younger before I started traveling with the ministry. A friend of mine called and told me that there was a tornado heading for her house. We prayed. There was a barn behind her house. The tornado passed between the barn and her home. Not any damage was done to either.)

There were a lot of times when God protected us during our tent days. He protected us from people who came in intending to do us harm. Sometimes we would set the tent in some really rough places. God kept us safe. One particular time I remember was when a witch came to a tent meeting. She had been a pastor, but she had turned to the dark side. She was

completely controlling all of the churches in that town. If a new church tried to start, she would take a group of men and go into the services and threaten the people. She would march around in the church and cause such a disruption that one by one churches were closing.

We set up our tent in that town, and we heard about her and the damage she was doing. She came to one of our services. She started marching around the inside of the tent. Brother Goad just said, “It won’t stick here. Whatever spirit you have, it won’t stick here.” He kept on preaching. Well, the fact that he wasn’t intimidated by her really got to her. She came back the next night with about 6 big men. They got up on the platform fully intending to close the service. One of the hosting preachers had lost his hand and had a hook in its place. All we could think of was a fight breaking out and that guy hooking one of those men with his hook. It was a bad scene. We knew that if God didn’t move, there could be several people who would get hurt. That was when God used Myrtle.

Myrtle was a little granny who stood about 5 feet tall and weighed no more than 90 pounds soaking wet. God gave her a huge boldness though. She went up on the platform and flipped her little pocket book off of her shoulder. She started hitting the leader of the men with it. She said, “Be ashamed, be ashamed for acting this way in the house of God.” She grabbed him by the ear and led him out of the tent. She was so

short compared to him that he had to bend over to follow her. She had him in a hold that he wasn't getting out of. All he could do wasgo where she led him. All of the rest of those men followed him out of the tent with their heads bent down.

We later learned something that made us very glad that God had intervened. There was a man who had gotten saved at that tent meeting. He had heard about the plans that this group of people had made to close the meeting. He had gathered a group of men that were ready to come into the tent if there was trouble, and they meant business. God really changed a bad circumstance to good and protected everyone under the tent. Plus, when the people in the area heard how we had stood up to her, they were able to do the same and she lost the stronghold that she had over the churches there.

When I think about how God has protected me through the years, one of the first things I think of was a trip that we took to Romania and the Ukraine. I already told about this, but I've not yet told about how God protected our lives during that time. We were going to travel across Romania from Bucharest to the Ukraine. We were going to hire a van driver to take us. God showed us that we didn't need to do that. We took a train instead. When we arrived at our destination, we found out that terrorists were killing people on the highway that we would have traveled on. I knew at the time that God had led us out of

harm. I really knew it when I went home. My grandmother was a prayer warrior. She asked me what happened on a certain date. She told me that the Lord had led her to pray for us on that day because our lives were in danger. I looked on my itinerary to see what we had been doing that day. That was the day we traveled across the country. God had protected us. Thank God for prayer warriors. There is another lesson that we can learn from this story. When the Lord tells you to pray, PRAY.

There have been so many times during my life that the Lord supernaturally protected me. I remember a time when I was getting ready to drive to my mother's. It was a two hour drive away. I had to go across two mountains to get there and a lot of curvy roads. I walked out of my door to get in my car and noticed something that really got my attention. My wheel had fallen off while my car was sitting in my driveway. If it had happened on my trip, it would not have turned out well.

I remember a story about how God protected one of my school kids. Their mother told me about what happened. They were driving somewhere when their little boy began to say, "Pray, Pray Brian wreck." He would not be quiet until they stopped and prayed to protect Brian. Brian did wreck and several of his brothers and cousins were in the wreck. They hit an electric pole. The live wires came down across their vehicle. They weren't hurt even though they climbed

through those live wires to get out of the vehicle. God protected them because of a little one's prayers.

I remember a time when God protected my husband and saved our home. We were going through an ice storm. An electric line broke and crossed the ground wire to our house. I was getting ready to leave. I noticed an odd sound. I began feeling the walls of our house. One was so hot that was ready to catch fire. The current had fed through the wires of our house and they were burning. We had to get most of them replaced. The greatest miracle was that Jim had been working third and he was in the bed asleep. If this had happened after I left, it would have been really bad.

I can remember another time when God protected me from a bad fire. I was staying with my aunt who was dying from cancer. I stayed with her about a month. Just a short while after she died, lightning hit her house. Her house burned totally down. It was such a hot fire that when the fire department sprayed water on the fire, it evaporated before it hit the fire. It was such a hot fire that the glass in the windows melted. I asked a man on the fire department that helped put the fire out if this had happened while my aunt was alive if we would have been able to get out. He answered, "Definitely not. God had kept us safe.

This happened to my husband. God protected him on a rescue squad call. He has been on the rescue squad

for over 25 years. On this particular call, they picked up a man who was at the drug rehab center. He acted a little strange, but nothing out of the usual. They took him to the hospital. While the man was there, he left the hospital. He went on a spree crossing 2 counties. He assaulted 2 people and stole their vehicles. God certainly protected my husband and his rescue squad partner that day.

I want to share something that really bothers me. I often hear Christians say this when God has miraculously protected them. They will make this statement, "I guess I was just lucky." That really gets to me. If God has supernaturally protected you, give Him the glory for it. Luck had nothing to do with it. I don't believe in luck, but I do believe in a God that loves us and protects us if he has to do the supernatural to do so.

I want to share with you a story that I heard when I was in the Ukraine. I was blessed to be able to be in the church where this happened. When they enlarge churches in the Ukraine, it was customary to leave the old church and build walls around it then merge the old and the new together by tearing down what part of the old you didn't want to keep. That way they could keep on having services. This story happened during communism. The church had started enlarging their building. The government sent troops to tear the church down.

The congregation found out that they were coming and the women and the children got in the space between the two walls and began to pray. They literally risked their life to protect their church. The soldiers' commander was so touched by what they had done that he ordered them not to tear down the building. When the church was ready to tear down the inner walls, the soldiers helped them do that, and they let the headquarters know that the church had been torn down. God protected them and their church and He honored their faith.

You may know the story in the Bible about Daniel in the lion's den. It is a great example of God's protection. There were some people who got jealous of Daniel. They talked the king into putting forth a petition that said if anyone worshiped anyone but the king for 30 days, they would be cast into a den of hungry lions.

These evil men knew that Daniel would be faithful to worship God. And he was. He opened the windows of his house and prayed just like he always had done. He was arrested and thrown into the lion's den. God was faithful to protect him. The king came in the next morning. He said this to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel answered him "O king, may you live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, for I was found

innocent in His sight, and I have done no wrong against you, O king." When they got him out of the lion's den that was not one mark found on him. God protected him.

The men who plotted against Daniel were thrown into the den of lions. Then the king declared an amazing thing. Then King Darius wrote to the people of every nation and language throughout the land: "May your prosperity abound. I hereby decree that in every part of my kingdom, men are to tremble in fear before the God of Daniel: For He is the living God, and He endures forever; His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His dominion will never end. He delivers and rescues; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Now when you read this, keep in mind that King Darius was over the Persian Empire which was one of the mightiest kingdoms that has ever existed. The Persians conquered and made other nations to serve them. That is how Daniel wound up to be in his empire. Because of Daniel's faithfulness and because of God's protection all of those in King Darius' realm were required to serve God.

I mentioned before how I love to read these true stories about famous people who did mighty things for the Lord. I remember the book *Brother Andrew*. He was a Bible smuggler during communism. He

could have been put in prison or killed if they found Bibles in his vehicle when he crossed the border. He would sometimes have hundreds of them in his vehicle. At the border they would search his vehicle sometimes making him take everything out. He tells about how there were many times that the Lord would have him to leave Bibles out in plain sight and He would make seeing eyes blind. He was never caught with Bibles. He told about how one time he went to the border. The Lord led him to eat lunch while they were searching his vehicle. He bowed his head to pray before his meal. The guards ran away in fear and didn't search his vehicle. God will protect you.

When we went to Romania and the Ukraine, we experienced something similar at the border. We had huge boxes of medicine and supplies that we were taking to missionary teams there. One of the things that will get you in trouble over there is if they suspect you of selling things on the black market. We had such a big supply of things that it looked like that was what we were doing. When you go through the border, the guards even take out your suitcases and search everything even separating your socks. We prayed while we were waiting to cross over.

When we got to the border, the guard asked our driver to come talk to him. She was from that country. When she got back, she told us that he had said this. "We know that there is a higher power and they will have to answer to Him for what they have in their

boxes. We are not going to search them." They let us go through.

Gladys Aylward was a missionary in China during the time of the Japanese occupancy and during the beginning of communism. She told about a time when the Japanese soldiers broke into the women's dorms and began to beat them. The man over the mission began to pray and told everyone to do the same. This angered one of the soldiers and he began trying to fire his weapon several times at this man but it wouldn't go off. I have read many times testimonies of Christians who were stood up before firing squads and the soldiers fired and none of their weapons went off. In fear, they would allow that person to live.

I am closing this chapter with verses about how God protects us and how we can trust Him. At such a time when it seems like there are scary things all around us, we need to remember these promises in God's Word. Proverbs 18:10, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe." Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 34:19, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all." Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, A very

present help in trouble." Psalm 91:15, "He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."

Here are more scriptures. Isaiah 43:2, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you." Psalm 138:7, "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me." John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."

Psalm 56:3-4, "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 57:1, "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by." Psalm 61:2, "From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Psalm 62:8, “Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a

refuge for us. Selah" Psalm 71:3, "Be my strong refuge, To which I may resort continually; You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress." God will protect His children.

I want to close this chapter with Psalms 23. It is really the closing for both chapters about how God provides and how He protects. When you read it, stop and think about each verse. Each verse has a message.

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

Chapter 8
Stories About Angels All Around Us

Angels are all around us. We have guardian angels that minister to the saints. The Bible speaks about how angels protect us. Psalms 34:7 says, “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” Daniel 6:22 tells us that it was an angel that shut the lion’s mouth when he was in the lion’s den. Angels set Peter free when he was in prison. Hebrews 1:14 says, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” Angles protect us and they also minister to us.

I remember a time when the Lord showed me that angels were with us to protect us and when I tell you what happened you will agree that was true. We were traveling to a meeting. We ran into a terrible ice storm. We had to go down a mountain with a steep grade and lots of curves. People were sliding around and sliding off of the road. Tractor trailers were having to pull over. But we didn’t have to. We just went right down that mountain like there was no ice on the road at all.

A friend of ours had a time when an angel protected her and it was her 3 year old son that saw it. They were driving along and her son pointed to the front window of the vehicle and kept saying look mom an angel. They didn’t take him seriously until later. Just

not long after he said this, a truck hit them head on. Her head hit the windshield right where her son had pointed. It cracked the windshield but only left a red place on her head. I saw her right after it happened and saw the crack in the windshield and there was no doubt in m mind that her son had seen an angel.

I remember the testimony of an older lady who was in a serious accident. She was pinned in and it took them a while to get her out of the vehicle. She was frantic and was thrashing around. Because of her injuries, it was important that she be calm. There was a young man who came to her side and he calmed her down. She felt such a great peace when he appeared. Later when she got out of the hospital, she asked the rescue squad workers who were at the accident about that young man because she wanted to thank him. They all told her the same thing. There was no young man there. She knew that an angel had visited her.

I remember a testimony of a friend of mine whose vehicle had engine trouble and it died. This happened at night on an isolated stretch of highway. She got out of her vehicle and was wondering what to do and a young man appeared there. He helped her get it started. She turned around to thank him but he was gone just as quickly as he had appeared. The thing was that she was on a straight stretch and there was nothing to keep him from being seen. She knew that an angel had protected her.

There is an amazing video on Youtube of people who are having a service. They are in the spirit praising the Lord. All of the sudden angels start singing with them. There is no mistaking it that this is the song of heavenly beings. You can tell this because of the sound of their voices and from the effects that it had on those in the service. The power of God fell in a mighty way. I know that there are a lot of fake things on Youtube, but when you see this one you will know that it is real. There is scripture that bears out that angels will sing with us and praise the Lord with us.

I mentioned Brother Andrew, the Bible smuggler, earlier. He had taken a bunch of Bibles into a new area and he prayed and asked God to show him who would help him deliver them. He was in a large town and he couldn't just knock on doors and ask, because if he went to the wrong door he would be arrested. It was at night. There was a man that appeared ahead of him. He mentioned for Andrew to follow him. He felt a peace about following him. The man went up a flight of stairs on the outside of a building. Andrew followed him. The stairs went around a corner. He rounded the corner and the man had disappeared. Keep in mind that there was no place that the man could have gone. He literally disappeared.

There was a door there. Andrew knocked on the door. He began to talk to the man who opened the door. He was a Christian. Andrew asked if they had Bibles. He

told how they had been praying for Bibles to come to them. God sent an angel to provide for them.

Sometimes we are like Elisha and his servant. We read this story in 2 Kings 6 of how a king and all of his army had circled Elisha and his servant. Elisha told his servant that there were more with them than there were with the enemy. His servant disagreed. Elisha prayed and asked God to show his servant. There was a huge army with them. Angels surrounded them and protected them. Remember when you are facing a battle or when you are need protection, you walk with angels.

When I think of angels I think of Sennacherib and Hezekiah. This story starts in 1 Kings 18. Sennacherib was an Assyrian King and military leader. He was one of the mightiest and cruelest Kings who ever lived. He would go in and conquer countries and make the people that he didn't kill to be slaves. History tells us that he displaced hundreds of thousands of people. He had come against Israel to destroy it. King Hezekiah, the king of Judah, told the people to trust in God. He obeyed God and did what God told him to do, then he trusted God to take care of them.

Sennacherib's men gave them a word from Sennacherib in 1 Kings 8:32-35, "..hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the

nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where were the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand? Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?" He then mocked God.

How did all of this turn out? In 2 Kings 19:6-7 we read what God told them. "Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumor, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." That is just what happened. Verse 35 tells us what happened. In the night an angel of the Lord killed 185,000 of Sennaharib's soldiers. Now it doesn't say that a legion of angels did this. It doesn't say even that 5 did all of this. It says that the angel, one angel did this.

How did all of this end? Sennacherib went back to Nineveh. He was worshiping in the temple of his god when one of his own sons killed him. God used angels to win the battle that day. Angels are mighty. We have angels with us. We have God's hedge of protection. We talked about that earlier. We are held in the palm of God's hand. Why do we get afraid? Good question. Think about that.

One thing that I want to caution you about. We are not to worship the angels. I few years back everyone went angel crazy. Many Christians were obsessed with angels. We are to be obsessed with God, not angels. We are to be obsessed with Jesus who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We are to remember that God has made us a little under the angels, and they are sent for our benefit. Revelation 22:9 talks about how John when he was being given the book of Revelation, had several encounters with angels. At this time, he bowed down to worship the angel. The angel said this, “Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.” The angels are our fellowservants. They are not to be worshiped.

Chapter 9
Stories About God's Healing

When I think back at the times when God healed me, I always think of this time. I believe that if God hadn't healed me at this time, then I would not be here today. I believe that was what the enemy was trying to do because it happened not long after I started traveling with the ministry. I was going down the interstate. I had left the tent early that morning and was traveling to the town I grew up in. I fell asleep while I was driving. I woke up to see a bank coming at me and the Lord led me to lay down. If I hadn't obeyed, I might not have walked out of the wreck. My car flipped upside down. It was a little Dodge Colt. I mashed the roof down on me and I was pinned in. After the accident I remember standing there and looking at the imprint of the steering wheel where the roof hit it.

When the rescue squad workers got me out of the vehicle, I had blood on both arms, and legs, and on the seat. But there wasn't a scratch on me. I had no internal injuries. There was no blood around my mouth or nose. I didn't have any problems later. I have no idea what had been wrong, but I knew it was fixed. The devil meant to stop me, but God said no and He lifted up a standard-a hedge of protection was around me.

Another time when God healed me was at a meeting at our church where Joanne Ramsey ministered. She has a keen healing ministry. She came in and taught healing for several nights. She taught about healing, how to receive it, how to believe for your healing, and she taught how to pray for others. Then when we all prayed for people to receive healing, they were healed. She doesn't do anything to lift herself up. She does everything she does to lift up Jesus and God's Word and to lift up God. I hear so many people that even when they pray for others to be healed they do it in a way that brings attention to themselves. I have even known ministers that charged money to pray for someone who was sick. All of these people run a high risk of God's wrath.

I had been having a problem with my hand. I couldn't straighten out my fingers. When I typed, I was in so much pain that I had to put an ice pack on my mouse pad. To sum it all up, God healed me in that meeting. My fingers straightened out and the pain stopped. I praise the Lord for that.

One of the most miraculous healings that I know about is how God healed my mother who had lymph cancer. It had even gotten into her bone marrow. She called me one night and told me that God had showed her that people had prayed for her and that she was healed. She went back to her cancer doctor and was totally and completely healed and this was confirmed by medical tests.

I have a friend who had cancer and it had eaten out the inside of her ears where the hearing mechanism is. She had become deaf because of this. We were praying for her and God healed her. I talk to her on the phone all of the time. Don't know how He fixed it, but I know that He did. And that is the important thing to know.

We know a woman whose insides were eaten out with cancer. She was in the hospital and they didn't have enough rooms. They knew that she was dying so they just pushed her over the side in a hallway. Someone prayed for her to be healed. She began getting better. They did Xrays to find out why. God had reconstructed the missing and damaged parts.

I have a friend who was hit by a car when he was jogging. The Xrays showed that his arm bone was totally crushed. It was so bad that it couldn't be repaired. He later showed us another Xray that they had taken. There was a new bone that was growing where the old one had been crushed.

One of the most amazing healing testimonies that I have heard is a true heart rending story. I heard from a man that knew these people that this happened to. A drug addict got pregnant. She did not want to have the baby. She paid men to beat her in the stomach so that she would miscarry. She ran into things and let them hit her in the stomach so that she would miscarry. When the baby was born, it had a lot of

things wrong. It was a drug baby, one born addicted to drugs. Doctors could tell that the baby had a lot of issues. One issue was deafness.

God led a Christian couple to adopt that baby. Keep in mind that they adopted it even after knowing all of its issues. Because they knew all of its issues, they took it to a doctor. The doctor who examined the baby said, "There is nothing wrong with this baby. He is totally healthy." God had healed that baby.

I want to close this chapter by giving scriptures about healing. Psalms 146:8, "The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous." Exodus 23:25, "And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." 3 John 1:8, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Jeremiah 17:14, "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise." Jeremiah 30:17a, "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD..." Does God heal? Don't take my word for it. Take God at His Word.

Jesus Himself healed many people during His ministry. Mark 1:34 says, "And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they

knew him." One of my favorite healing passages is Matthew 20:34, "So Jesus had compassion *on them*, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him." If He had compassion on those He walked with, won't He have compassion on us today and heal us? How much compassion did He have for the sick? He was beaten so that we could be healed. I don't understand how that worked, but it does. Roman soldiers beat Him with a cat of nine tails which was a whip with leather strips with pieces of bone and glass tied to it. When they beat Him, the bones and sinew of His back showed. Why did He go through that? So we can be healed. Will He heal us? You know the answer to that one.

I want to add something here. There have been a couple of times in my life when God showed me that He would not heal me. One of those times happened when we first started the school. It took a lot of work to start the school. We would work until all hours of the night. I started running on caffeine. I wouldn't take time to eat. I would drink 4 or 5 cokes a day and drink 4 or 5 cups of coffee a day.

I was getting a lot done. But it was doing a number on my body. I was taking in all of that caffeine and little water. My kidneys stopped working. I would go for a couple of days and not pass water. I would ask God to heal me and He did. This happened several times. The third time when it happened I asked God to heal

me and He said, “No, fix it.” God was not going to allow me to keep on abusing my body. He was no longer going to heal me and I was forced to change what I was doing. I am grateful that God did that.

There have been other times when God has done the same sort of thing. I would always work hard and not take care of myself. I was so particular with what happened with our church building. That is hard when you have 50 to 60 children in a school in your church. If they scuffed a wall I was dismayed. At one point when I was not taking care of myself. He told me that I needed to take care of His sanctuary. I told Him that I tried really hard to do that. He said, “take care of my sanctuary, your body, where I dwell. You take more care of my house, this church, than you care for your body. It is my sanctuary as well.”

There was another time when God said He wouldn’t heal me. I was working and working day and night to get done what I needed to get done. I wouldn’t allow people to help me. That is a very, very bad way to be. God allowed me to have some health issues so that I couldn’t continue to be that way. I had to have help and I finally learned to accept it.

I have finally learned (after years of doing it wrong) how to pace myself. I have a lot of energy and that is sometimes bad. I would just jump in and work and work until I was nearly worked out. I still wouldn’t be able to get done what I had to do. God told me that

He would be sending helpers and He was preparing them to come. He has sent, and is sending more helpers that come in and they already know how to do what He sends them to do. They fit right in with us as if they have been part of us for years. They have a heart for what they are doing and for what we as a whole are doing. I have learned to rely on my helpers and let them work the work that God sent them to do.

To sum this up, take care of your sanctuary, of your body where God dwells. It is His house and it is holy to Him. Treat it with care.

Chapter 10
Stories About God's Presence and About the Anointing of His Spirit

In this chapter I want to talk about God's Spirit, how He moves and what happens when He does. We have had powerful services through the years and we still have. If you are in a church where the Spirit of God does not move, where people are not saved, healed, delivered through His Spirit, then you need to get out of that church and find one where God moves in the midst of the people. If God doesn't come to church, that is a church that I don't want to go to.

I love when the Spirit of God moves in services. We have had powerful services down through the years. But even just as important are the times in my life when the Lord has poured out His Spirit on me in my home when it was just the Lord and me. Sometimes if we aren't careful we will begin to think that the only place that the Lord's Spirit will move is in church services. I have had times when the Holy Ghost would fall on me and deliver from something, or heal me, or reveal things to me, or just strengthen me and this happened when I was alone, not in church. He will do the same for you. Remember, God is no respecter of persons.

Another example of how God will move is this. My neighbor and good friend (the lady who proofs my books) and I have a prayer meeting every Sunday

after church. God led us to do this and He has really blessed it. There is a powerful anointing there when we pray. We see the results of our prayers. God answers our prayers and He ministers to us. We have committed to pray for our churches and for our ministry, for our county, for our state, for our nation, for Israel, and for the world. At first it was hard to go to church and then have prayer meeting. But the power of God moves so greatly in our prayer time that we soon forget being tired. Especially when we see the results of our prayers.

I want to challenge each of you to try this. Commit to a prayer time. It is best to do this with someone of like mind and heart so that you have agreement together. Why is it important to do this? Matthew 18:18-20 says, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." We read in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Prayer is the most powerful thing that you can do as a child of God.

For this to work, you have to make a commitment and you have to keep that commitment. I think that in the

year that we have done this, we have only missed it due to sickness. For God to bless it, you have to make a priority to do it. Also, we yield to the Lord as we pray.

He puts on our hearts what to pray for, and leads us as we pray. Sometimes we just praise the Lord. We pray in English and we pray in tongues as the Holy Ghost leads. If He isn't leading us, then we are quiet until He puts the next thing on our hearts to pray for. We have a unity between us so that we function well with each other. We aren't trying to prove how great we are when we pray. We aren't in the flesh but we are in the Spirit yielding to Him.

I challenge you to try this. If you do, you will definitely not regret it. It will change your world and your life. God's anointing will bless you. (Just a note here: This prayer meeting does not take place of our church attendance. God says this in Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." It is very, very important that you go to church.)

I want to add this. Whether you pray alone or together with someone, it is important to make a commitment to a prayer time. You need to make an individual commitment to a daily prayer time. Also, it is important to yield to God's Spirit and when He leads

you to pray, stop and pray. Again I want to say this. When you see the results of your prayers, it will cause you to realize that you are so glad that you made a commitment to pray.

Some of the most wonderful meetings that we have been in was when God's Spirit was moving and people were being healed and delivered and filled with the Holy Ghost and they were sitting in their seats when it happened. They didn't come up front to have a preacher pray for them, but God moved through the congregation. One of the things that happened in those services was that the people were praying for one another. I remember one service when teenagers were filled with the Holy Ghost and prayed for others, and they received it. Even children were doing the same thing. Sometimes if we aren't careful we will think that everything has to be done by the preacher up front. That isn't so. If God is leading yo to pray for someone then do so. Keep in mind that there will be order in the service. Even when the Holy Spirit moves, there won't be chaos. Be sure that it is at a time when others are praying for one another. Do it at the time when God leads you. Don't wait.

We have had services when there was a blue haze like smoke in the top of the tent. People checked to be sure that the tent wasn't on fire, but it was the Spirit of God. I remember one service when everyone in the tent was slain out in the Spirit. That happens when

the Spirit of God moves on a person in such a way that they actually fall in the floor yielded totally to the Spirit. I have had that happen to me and I would be healed or delivered. When that happens to you, you will come up changed.

I remember the first time that ever happened to me I was in a service and that was going on. I had never seen it before, but I knew one thing. That wasn't going to happen to me. I had a friend that was seriously ill and I knew that there was something going on in this service. So I went up front to be prayed for and I was determined I wouldn't go down in the floor. The preacher prayed for me and I was slain out in the Spirit and in the floor I went.

I had just gotten up when the preacher laid his hand on me again and out I went again. This happened 5 times. By the time I left that service not only was I convinced that this was something I needed, I was also convinced that I loved it. Sometimes if we aren't careful we will see things happening in services and they won't be familiar to us. We will think that it is a bad thing or we will be convinced that we don't want it. If it is a wrong thing then you will get a really bad feeling about it. But if you don't, then don't criticize it and be willing to try it.

I have been in services when the Holy Ghost would move and intercede for someone, praying for them. God would pray through a person and they would

pray for someone saying things that only God knew. Maybe they would be giving details about what was going on in their life, or maybe they were praying for healing and calling out details of what was wrong with them, and they had never seen that person before. Maybe they were praying about things that were going to happen to them. In all of those times, the person being prayed for knew that God was speaking through that person and they knew that God knew where they were and what they needed. One of the amazing things I have heard when this happens is the testimony of a friend of mine. When she was just 6 years old, the Lord would use her in this way. When she spoke, everyone knew that it had to be God. People would climb over seats to get up front to be prayed for when this happened.

I know that there are a lot of times when these kinds of things are done by those who are doing them to trick people to get their money. They are counterfeits. If we aren't careful though, we will dismiss these things automatically assuming that is what is going on, but it will be a genuine move of God. Be careful that you don't do this. Keep this in mind. Why do counterfeiters counterfeit a 20 dollar bill? Because there are real ones. No one will counterfeit something unless it is real. Don't dismiss something because it might be counterfeit, remember these things are also real.

We had a girl in our Christian school one time that experienced the real. She and a friend of hers were in a church service. A message went out that they were about to face a life threatening situation but God would protect them. The congregation began to intercede for them, to pray for them. God really moved. Just a couple of days later they were going to her house. They didn't know it, but her Dad had killed her mother and her sister. As they were walking to the house, her Dad tried to shoot her. The bullet went between them and went through the bottom of her skirt but missed her. They were both able to get away unhurt.

Here is another amazing story of a miracle that happened in a church service. This mother told me about it and showed me a picture of the miracle that God had done for her son. Her baby was born a water head baby. His skull had not formed at the top of his head and in the front. They told her that as he grew his brain would just grow out on top and in the front and he would be really grotesque looking. He had spinal bifuda. He was paralyzed from the waist down.

Doctors told her that he was the worst baby that they had seen. They told her that he would never live long enough to go to school and if he did, he wouldn't be able to learn anything. He would be mentally retarded. They told her that it would be the best thing for them to give him a shot and put him to sleep. She

refused to accept that and she began to pray for her son.

During a church service when the power of God was moving, the baby's grandmother laid hands on him and prayed in tongues. They went to the doctor and what he saw made him say, "This is impossible. This is impossible." He kept saying it over and over. The baby's skull had grown back. He went to school and graduated.

At the time when I am writing this he is 45 years old. His mom showed me his picture and he was a really good looking young man. She told me that he was really smart. He has memorized all of the presidents, the history of the time when they were in the presidency. He can tell you all of their wives. She said that if she wants to know anything she just asks him. God had other plans for this young man. This is a testament of our God who is a miracle working God. It is also a testimony of a mother's love and faith as she refused to do anything but believe God and what He could do for her son.

I want to add to this chapter a section about The Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I believe in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. (Just a note: sometimes I will call Him the Holy Ghost and sometimes I will call Him the Holy Spirit. I am referring to the same thing.) The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a gift that God has for us. It is a powerful gift. When you get saved, you are

born of the Spirit of God. God's Spirit comes into your heart. Jesus comes into your heart through God's Spirit. So you are right if you say that God's Spirit comes into your heart when you are saved. But there is more.

If you have been baptized or filled with the Spirit of God, then you know what I am saying. Baptized with the Spirit and filled with the Spirit are both terms that refer to the same experience. There are three reasons why I know that being baptized or filled with the Holy Ghost means more than just salvation. I know because I have read the full counsel of God's Word and it is all through the scriptures. Also, I know because it has happened to me. The third reason I know that it is so is because millions of people down through time have experienced the same thing that I have experienced.

When you get saved, you receive God's Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is another experience that you can receive that is in addition to salvation. It is a gift that God gives us that empowers us for service. It will also enable you to overcome satan who is out to destroy you. Here is a little bit of what the Bible says about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Here are some scriptures where it is mentioned. Here are some scriptures. There are more to come throughout the book. Luke 3:16 tells about the first incidence where the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is first mentioned.

John the Baptist is speaking here. “John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.”

At Pentecost the Holy Ghost filled them, baptized them. This is found in Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 8:15 talks about a group of people who had been saved. We read in that scripture that they had received the Word of God, and they had been baptized in water already. Then they received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. “Who, when they were come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost.” Verse 17 says, “Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” (If this were talking about salvation, and receiving the Holy Ghost because they were saved, then why hadn’t they gotten it when they were saved? Why did they have to go and lay hands on them so that they could receive it? We’ll talk more about this later.) Acts 19:6, “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” This is talking about more than salvation.

I had never heard about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Now when you consider how many scriptures there are in the Word of God that mention it, it seems

strange that I hadn't heard of it. Sometimes though you are indoctrinated against the truth. I didn't realize that I was. I was indoctrinated so much that I couldn't see the words that were there in plain sight. I couldn't see the truth about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. When I came back to the Lord, I had a bunch of devils who wanted me back, and I was literally fighting for my soul. I needed the Baptism of the Holy Ghost to be able to survive as a Christian. God knew that. He made a way for me to hear about it and to receive it.

After I graduated from college I stayed at home for a while. During that time someone called me. She told me that her mother was opening up a church in my area and she invited me to come. The amazing thing about that was I had not seen this girl since we were friends in middle school. She had moved away and I didn't realize that she had moved back home. I knew that this had to be God so I went.

This church service was a little different than what I was used to. They allowed the Spirit of God to move in their midst. Another thing that they did was they spoke in tongues. I had never heard that before, but in my heart I knew that it was real and I knew it was God. I knew that the whole thing was real and I knew that I wanted what they had. They explained about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I went up for prayer and I received that precious gift. I believe with all of my heart that if I hadn't gotten it then, I would not have made it as a Christian. Why do I think that?

Because God did a miracle to teach me about it and so that I could receive it. Not long after I received that gift, that church closed. God will provide you the truth that you need if He has to move in a miraculous way to do it.

When I was a young Christian, I went through a time when I would take two steps forward just to go three steps back. I couldn't get free from my old way of life. I couldn't get free of the bondage that the devil had put on me. I couldn't stay in the victory that I knew I should have. I wasn't able to until the day that I received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. That gift enabled me to rise up above the place where I had been in my life. No longer was I rocked back and forth. I found victory in my life. I praise God that He provided a way for me to hear about this truth.

I didn't begin to speak in tongues at the church when they prayed for me. I started speaking in tongues a couple of days later. I was praying for a friend of mine who was dying with cancer. I was praying in earnest with all of my heart. I wasn't trying to pray in tongues. I had my mind on praying for my friend totally. Then all of the sudden I started speaking in another language. The gift of praying in tongues is a powerful gift. It comes along with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is God's Spirit who is in you praying through you in His own language. Talk about a powerful prayer. God knows just exactly how to pray

and He prays using your voice. It is a prayer that moves mountains and chases devils away.

Just a little humorous note on the side here. I didn't realize that you could stop it or start it. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:32, "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." I didn't understand anything about it when I first receive that gift. I was afraid that if I started speaking in tongues my family who didn't know anything about what that was would think that I was crazy. I stayed outside with my horses all day.

I want to tell a couple of testimonies about the gift of speaking in tongues. There have been many times when the Spirit of God would start praying through me. I would see the results of my prayer almost immediately. I remember hearing about how a friend of mine started praying in tongues. He could tell that it was an urgent prayer. He noticed what time he had prayed. He found out later that a friend of his had been stabbed at exactly the time when he had started praying. His friend was OK.

Another testimony of how God uses this gift comes from someone who was flying in an airplane. All of the sudden the Spirit of God moved and he began praying in tongues. He kept it up for a while until the urge to do so left. He noticed what time that this happened. Later he found out that at that time the

plane had some sort of engine trouble. It had miraculously been fixed.

Here is another testimony of how God uses this gift. A man from an Indian tribe was walking down the sidewalk. He passed by a church. The window was open. He heard a child speaking in his native language that wasn't often used. She was saying that he needed to come to Jesus. Imagine the surprise of the congregation when he ran into the church and ran to the altar. He knew that this was God calling him and he answered.

Another amazing time that I saw this gift being used in a prayer meeting. There was a family of girls and they had all married Hispanics. A older lady was slain out in the Spirit. She began to speak in tongues. She was speaking perfect Spanish. I knew that she didn't know Spanish. She called one of the girl's husbands by his nickname that no one knew. She told the girl that if she would be faithful, He would be in church serving God. We all knew that this message came from God.

If when you read this you realize that you need this amazing gift, then ask God for it. Luke 11:9-13 says, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that

is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he asks a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" God knows how to give His Spirit to you. And He will.

I went to a church service recently. It was a church that was near several college campuses and there were a lot of young people there from those colleges. It was a wonderful service. They had a baptizing and there were about 10 young people who were baptized. Each one gave their testimony before they were baptized. Then they had the service. You could feel the anointing. Those young people put everything they had into praising the Lord.

Then the pastor gave a sermon. I was impressed with the level of teaching that was presented throughout the message and when they talked about the different programs that they had, I could tell that a lot of teaching was going out from that church. It was right teaching, too. They did not compromise with the truth to be able to keep the young people in church. They taught right teaching so that they could keep the young people in church. The feeling that I got from this church was that it could bloom into being another revival like the Asbury college revival.

There was one thing that I noticed that bothered me. There was no one speaking in tongues. Even when people were caught up in praise. No one on the platform prayed in tongues. I remembered something that someone who attended there said that no one did that. That bothered me. I wasn't sure why this bothered me because I could tell that God was moving in the midst of the people there. I began to pray that the Lord show me why this was missing and why it was so important to have this in the congregation.

I first thought about my own life. I have shared my testimony about how I learned about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I can say without a doubt that if I had not received that gift I would not still be saved. I would probably not even be alive. I had a lot of devils camped around me who were determined to stop me. I was up and down and in and out with the Lord because of that. I did not have the power to stand and keep my victory. That was until I received the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

I told about how God did a miracle to teach me about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I had never heard of it until that church opened and I went to church there and learned about it and received it. There was no more up and down for me after that. I had the power to stand and rise up and stand and rise up I did. I had the boldness to rise above the devil who was determined to stop me. I became a Christian who had a powerful prayer life. Why? Because God Himself

prayed through me. Talk about a powerful prayer. We have talked about how speaking in tongues comes when God prays in His language using you as His mouthpiece. When I don't know how to pray, I pray in tongues and the exact words that need to be prayed are prayed.

I also found the authority over satan that comes with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. When the Spirit of God rises up in you and begins to take authority over the devil, that devil is bound. Instead of a weak Christian who was up and down like a yo-yo, I became a bold power house for the Lord because I received this wonderful gift, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Then I thought of those young people. I thought of some of them that I knew who were up and down like a yo-yo. I heard some of them say that they needed to be in that church to serve God. I knew that they wouldn't have boldness to stand wherever God sent them from there. They were finding strength in the Lord, but they were also finding a lot of strength in each other. That is good but we need to find so much more than that to be victorious in this last day world.

Then I thought of services that I have been in compared to the one at that church that I was in. It was a good service. But I compared it to other services I have been in. Services when the anointing of God comes in like a lion and lifts you up and heals

you and renews you. Services when the Holy Ghost moves miraculously. Services where there is such power of God there that you can't stand on your feet. Services where people are filled with the Holy Ghost when God's Spirit touches them and no one else has laid hands on them to pray for them. Services where people are delivered and set free. Services that are so powerful that when you leave the church, your life has radically been changed.

That is the kind of things that happen in church services where the Spirit of God is allowed to move. When people open up their hearts and minds and welcome Him. Where people are allowing the Holy Ghost to fill them and to move them.

I was reminded of a children's home that I taught school in for a time. I have mentioned it in the chapter about God's perfect timing. I really don't think that they meant to push away God's Spirit but that is what they did. God could only move to a certain point in their midst because they did not allow anyone to teach about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. They didn't open up to everything that God had for them. They came to a certain point in the move of God's Spirit, then they stopped.

As time went on they moved away from letting His Spirit move at all. That will easily happen when we fail to press on with all our heart, mind and soul to find more in God. We begin to settle for less than his

best. If you remember in my testimony, this school came out with the statement that you had to sign that said you had to denounce the move of God's Spirit, and healing. It had moved that far from the Spirit of God.

God gave us the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. That is the power that bubbled up in Acts that started the church. Why did the early church have such power at the beginning? Why was it able to rise up above the persecution that they went through? Why were they able to witness boldly in the face of that persecution? Why were they powerhouses for God, carrying His Word? Because of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. How can we do the same today?

How can we rise up in the power that we will have to have to be able to overcome? How can we witness boldly when others compromise on their faith? How can we carry this message to a lost and dying world and have the power to shine in the victory that we have in our lives? Because we have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is my sincere prayer that the Spirit of God moves in all of these groups of young people who are gathering together and they are baptized with his Spirit so that they can rise up in the power of God's Spirit and change their world. So that they have the power to find everlasting victory in their lives so that they can be lights shining bright leading others to the light.

For more information about the Gift of The Baptism of the Holy Ghost I have written a book titled The Story of Acts and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. You can find it on Amazon. You can also find it on my website www.freechristianonlinebooks.com. You can download it free. This gift is for you. It will change your life and it will change your world.

Chapter 11
Stories About Walking in the Spirit

This chapter talks about how to unlock all of these things that we have talked about in this book. Walking in the Spirit is a valuable thing to do. You could think of it like this. Picture the Spirit of God being like a river flowing. You can either get into the river and swim against the currents or you can flow with the current and let it carry you. If you swim against the current, then you won't go where the river carries you, and you will just get worn out. You really won't get anywhere. If you flow with the current, you will flow right where the river leads you and you will find strength as you let the river carry you along. Walking in the Spirit is like that.

The Spirit of God is in you. You yield to the Spirit of God. He is causing you to go where He wants you to go. He leads you daily. He will lead you at work and at home. He will lead you as you go about your daily routine. He will lead you as you go to the store. As He leads you, He will use you to be a light to those around you.

The Bible talks about us having two parts after the Spirit of God comes in us when we accept salvation. We have the flesh part of us which is us minus God. When the Spirit of God comes into us, we have Him inside of us. That is why we become a new creation when we are saved. We can learn to yield to the Spirit

of God inside of us and we let Him have the wheel so to speak. He does the driving and we ride along. That will change your life in such a tremendous way.

Here are some of my stories about walking in the Spirit. Just the other day, we had someone come in to the office. I felt led to give them a book about how to be saved. She told me that she and her husband had prayed that very morning about giving their hearts to the Lord. When I gave her that book and told her that the Lord had led me to do that, she knew that the Lord had heard her prayer and it gave her hope. She broke down and started crying.

On the opposite side of things, if you don't yield to God's Spirit and flow with Him, you can mess up people's lives. I remember a time when there was a student who was going through a really rough time. I didn't realize this at the time. He came in to talk and I was all in a hurry for some reason. I didn't take the time I needed to talk with him. I really sort of brushed him off. I was too busy being in the flesh to be in the spirit.

Later, God showed me that I really needed to call him at home. God gave me an urgent feeling that I needed to do that. He had tried to commit suicide. I will never forget the feeling that I got when I heard that. I knew that God had given me a time to talk to him and I had brushed it off. I pray that I never do that again. You never know when God leads you to talk to

someone how it will change their life and how it will change their life if you don't obey Him.

Another benefit of yielding and flowing with the Spirit of God is that your flesh is submitted to God. When it is, you won't have as many regrets. The devil knows just how to push your buttons. I had something happen just the other day that illustrates this. As ministers and workers in the kingdom even as a child of God, we have an influence on those around us and we can make or break them easily. The devil wants to stop this influence. So he will push your buttons to get you aggravated and bent out of shape. Then when you react to this and explode around them, then they will not see God in you at all, but they will see the one who pushed your buttons.

You can't take moments like that back. That is what happened the other day. The devil had pushed my buttons and I was reacting to a situation and was ready to send out an email to all of the extension colleges in my anger at what one person had done. God stopped me and I yielded to Him. He showed me that I had misunderstood what had happened. If I hadn't yielded to Him, I would have had a huge regret.

Another advantage of flowing in the Spirit and yielding to God is that you can avoid the traps that the devil readily sets for you. I have had instances when I would step around a trap that the enemy had set for

me not even knowing that it was there because I was yielded to the Lord and flowing in Him.

The devil will set traps for you. These may be traps where he is using someone to create a situation in your life where he will be able to destroy your testimony or your influence. It may be traps to get you to compromise so that you become double minded and in doing so you become a stench in God's nostrils. It may be a trap where you are tempted to sin. I have even heard many times of how the devil would set a trap to kill someone but they were led in a different direction. For example, an accident was sure to happen to them up this certain road but they were led to flow in a different direction and avoided it.

I have felt led to change lanes right before the vehicle that was in front of me stopped in the middle of the 4 lane. Many times I have started to change lanes and stopped because someone I didn't see with my eyes was in my blind spot. It didn't see with my eyes but I saw with my spirit. Walking in the Spirit can help you avoid all kinds of accidents whether they are on the highway or spiritual wrecks that the enemy brings against you.

Being able to submit to God and yield to His Spirit and flow with Him is a key to being able to keep from being deceived. There is so much deception everywhere you turn. Lies are more common than the truth. I believe that this is a sign of the last days.

Flowing in the Spirit of God will help you not to be deceived. There are so many people who are departing from the truth. The Bible talks about this in 2 Timothy 4:2-4, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 1 Timothy 4:1-2, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron". Wow.

These verses really describe what is going on today. So in the middle of all of this why is it important to hold to the truth and nothing but the truth? Jesus said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." I am convinced that the truth of the Word of God is the way to Jesus and Jesus is the truth. Without the truth, you won't make heaven your home. If you are deceived you will go to hell for eternity. There is one way and that way is God's way. If you aren't in that way, then you won't make it to heaven. You need to pray that you not be deceived. Mark 13:21-23 says, "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to

seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things." We are to have a relationship with the Lord that is real. When we walk and talk with Him, He will keep us from lies. When we flow in the Spirit, He will let us know if we are being deceived. We won't go here or there to follow after false Christs' or false prophets because we will be following the one who is true. We will be following our Shepherd who will keep us.

Another reason why it is important to be able to discern the truth is just dealing with day to day life and being able to see what is going on around us. There are people who are using lies to control us. There is a spirit of deception that is using lies to cause us to be afraid, to bind us in constant fear and internal strife. The Word of God will keep us from being dragged into this. Also, when we follow God we will be able to stand up and stand against those lies that are being told. We won't give in to the control of the people who are trying to take control. We won't give in to the control of the spirits of hell who are trying to control. We will stand up for what is right and we will overcome it all leading others around us to do the same.

God taught me to yield and to flow in His Spirit by having me to submit and flow with my husband. That is so important. In my mind, my husband didn't have the walk that I had with the Lord. He wasn't obeying God like I was. He wasn't as spiritual as I was.

When you start getting that way, putting people down because they aren't as spiritual as you are, that is a clue that you are getting stinking thinking and you are in the flesh, and you are not in the Holy Ghost. I want to especially give a caution to women ministers. Now I am definitely not against women ministers because I am one. But I understand the issues that we have to face as women ministers. It is crucial that you submit to your husbands (even if you think they aren't as spiritual as you). It is crucial that you submit to someone in your church or ministry. If you don't, then you will not be able to fully submit to God and yield to Him and flow with Him in His Spirit. If that doesn't happen, then you will be just like the scriptures say "a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." You will just be noise. I know how all of this works because I have been there.

Love is the key to bring you into submission. I love God more than I love myself. I am willing to submit to Him because I love Him and because of His love for me. As I mentioned before, my love for my husband and his love for me brought me to the place where I could yield. I had been hurt a lot growing up. I had a tender heart and got it trampled on frequently. It was hard for me to yield to people because I was afraid of getting hurt. God's love for me started that process of healing. Then I was able to submit and yield because I knew His wonderful love and I knew beyond any shadow of doubt that I could trust Him. I eventually learned to yield to Him and flow with Him.

God is very patient and very kind concerning our weaknesses. I am so thankful that He is because most of my life I have been weak. If you admit it, you are too. That is part of being a human.

Part of what made me want to submit and yield to God and walk in His Spirit was being able to see myself as I am without God. I loved Him and I wanted to serve Him better. I loved those around me and I wanted to bring God to them. I wanted to be and do so much better than I could be and do and I knew that I could only do that with God's help. That is when He taught me for real about walking in the Spirit.

Another thing that made it possible for me to be able to yield to God and flow with Him was trust. When you trust Him completely, it is easier to yield. Through the years I have doubted down in my heart and I would panic and I would do my own thing whether it was wrong or right. I was in the current flowing with His Spirit but fear would make me thrash around trying to swim on my own and when that happens, you go against the current. That only gets you in the wrong place at the wrong time in both the natural and the spiritual and it just wears you out. I have watched God move in my life and in our ministry. I learned to trust God and it became easier to yield. The more glimpses that I got of His awesome love for me (and for us all) has made it easier to trust Him and yield. Especially in those

times when I can't see Him work, I have learned to yield to Him. I have learned to lean on Him and not rely so much on others or on myself. (Remember FAITH is Forsaking All I Trust Him). You can't yield and flow with Him if you are constantly leaning on others.

The more valleys that you go through and the more mountains that He helps you climb, the more storms you go through together, the more battles that you win with Him the more you will trust Him. The more you will flow with Him instead of going your own way. You will trust Him completely and you will yield to Him.

One of my favorite movies is Miss Potter. It is a movie about Beatrix Potter who wrote the children's books Peter Rabbit. It isn't a Christian movie, but it is a good story. It is my favorite movie because God used it to bring me to a place where I could yield more to Him. There is a scene in the movie where her friend proposes to her. She had a music box that played a tune and he started to sing it to her. Here is part of the words to the song.

Let me teach you how to dance
Let me lead you to the floor
Simply place your hand in mine
And then think of nothing more
Simply follow where I lead let me teach you how to dance

For days after I heard that song it would come to my mind but it was the Lord who was singing it to me. My precious Savior who had died for me who had been wooing me, courting me, drawing me to the place where I would be one with Him was saying to me, "Yield to me completely and I will teach you how to dance." He was going to teach me how to flow with Him in the Spirit, flow in His anointing.

You will find in God (or with anyone) that there are levels in your relationship. There will be moments that draw you closer to the Lord. This was one of those profound moments. It was a glimpse of the oneness that God wants to have with us. John 17 talks about this oneness. **Please read the whole chapter. I am only going to put part of it here**. Here are verses 20 through 24. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us*: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; *that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.* Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." You can only find that sort of relationship and that sort of love when you

yield to Him. Your Savior is saying to you, “Yield to me. Walk with me. Be one with me as I am one with my Father. Flow with me in my Spirit. Let me teach you how to dance. I will change your life, your ministry and your world.”

Another thing that brought me to the place where I became one with the Lord is a sermon that I heard Angus Buchan preach. If you have never heard him, you need to. He has a lot of things on youtube. He has preached to crowds of over 1,000,000. He steps out in faith and obeys God. His messages will encourage your faith and help you to find victory. He has a gift to teach and make it where everyone can understand even profound spiritual truths.

In his sermon that changed my life, he gave the testimony of how the Lord began to show him that he was not walking with Him as he should. I am telling this from Angus’ own words. The Lord spoke Revelation 2:4 to him. “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.” Angus said that he told the Lord, “What do you mean? I am doing everything for you. I am traveling. I am preaching. I do all of this for you.” God showed him that he had moved away from His first love. God showed him that because of that he wasn’t fully obeying Him.

Angus told that he stopped doing everything. He canceled all of his appointments that he had made and

he had scheduled things up ahead for 2 years. He got on his face before God and repented. He came to the place where he returned to his first love and he yielded to the Lord and made Him the Lord of his life for real. He gave the control of His ministry over to the Lord. Sometimes we can get so caught up in serving God that we leave Him out of the picture. We are doing our thing and we wonder why God doesn't bless us totally. God showed Angus his failing and helped him to change.

Then things began to change dramatically for Angus. He told about how the Lord led him to be a mentor for younger men. He said that he thought that meant to just mentor a handful of men. God had bigger plans. God led him to start the Mighty Men Conferences. Over 240 men attended the first conference. The next year there were 600, over 1,000 came the next year. Then it grew to 7,400. The next year the crowd for these conferences grew to be 70,000 men. From there Mighty Men's conferences have spread all over the world.

God used Angus' testimony to convict me. I saw where I was doing this same thing. I was too busy serving God to spend time with Him. I was doing my thing with His help and that is not how it should be. I repented and asked God to help me change. One of the things I immediately saw change is the struggle that I had been having stopped when I yielded to Him. Another thing that I am seeing is that God sent help

because I was yielded enough to admit that I needed it. There is another dimension that is coming to what I am doing, because now it is what He orchestrates. Another big difference that I saw was this. I used to find my identity in what I did for the Lord. Now I find my identity in my relationship with Him.

I can tell you that the process of learning how to walk in the Spirit for me has been a long one. I think it is because of a couple of reasons. One is that I was so stubborn and rebellious and full of myself. Another reason is that a lot of God's gifts and the experiences He has for you have different depths. They have different levels that you experience. Walking in the Spirit has been that way for me.

Years ago I wrote a book *Walking in the Spirit.* I thought I had that experience all worked out in my life. Nearly 20 years later, I am still learning about this. I have experienced a deeper walk with the Lord, a closer relationship with Him and I have learned so much more than what I experienced all of those years ago. I have learned a new depth of what it means to yield to Him. Don't ever think that you have arrived. Don't ever get the attitude that you have received all that there is to receive and you know all that there is to know about God and His Word.

God is so huge and His Word is so huge that we will be learning more about Him for the rest of our lives and keep this in mind when you think about that

statement the rest of our lives will be for eternity. We will be learning new things about God and we will be learning them forever.

I have learned that one of the greatest things about walking in the Spirit flowing with the Lord and yielding to Him and to His anointing is this. This helps when you are serving Him but it also helps in your everyday life. Sometimes I will have work that is piled up over my head. I get so stressed out and stretched out that I am scrambling to get it done and when I get that way I become less efficient. In other words the hurrier I go the behinder I get.

Then I come to the place when I am so overwhelmed that I just sit down. Then is when I yield to Him and flow with Him and in 2 days the work that I had struggled to get done for weeks is done. There is something about flowing in the anointing and flowing with the Lord that gets things done when weeks of struggling in the flesh only wears you out and leaves the work piled higher. The thing that I am learning to do is not to wait until I am overwhelmed but start out yielding to Him letting God have it.

You may have thought that when I started talking about walking in the Spirit that this is something that is only for those who work in the ministry but that is far from the truth. Every day the easiest way is to do things God's way. He will even lead you on your job if you yield to Him. Frank Jennings, one of the co-

pastors at our church, has shared how God helped him many times on his job. He learned to flow in the Spirit at work and he was able to be so efficient that he was asked to train other workers. They could see something different in him and he willingly told him about the One who made the difference.

His job was to set up machines to produce parts. The Lord would lead Him how to design these and often he would save the company thousands of dollars. God will flow with you whereever you are if it is His will for you to be there. It was God's will for Frank to work there so He used it and blessed it. Because God blessed him on his job he was able to give to the work of the Lord. Also, he was a witness where he worked. To sum this up you can walk in the Spirit and flow in the anointing even at your job, in your relationships with family, in your relationships wherever you go. Yield to the Lord and let Him use you wherever you go and whatever you do. He will help you to change your world.

Flowing in the Spirit even makes the everyday things so much easier to do. The other day my insurance company took out an automatic payment that I hadn't signed up for. It was $124.00 payment and I wasn't expecting it. It overdrew my account. God kept dealing with me to check my balance and at first I brushed it off because I had plenty in there. At least I thought that. I was so glad when I yielded to Him and saw what had happened. I needed to contact that

company and straighten that out. I had no idea of how to find their contact information. I didn't even know the name of the company that had done that. God showed me how to find that information and it was so easy. By flowing in the Spirit, that situation was fixed and I didn't have to pay a huge amount of overdraft fees because I yielded to God and flowed with Him.

Another thing that flowing in the Spirit of God will give you is more time. I'll be scrambling for time in the mornings to get everything done so that I have time for prayer or Bible study. I'll start flowing in the Spirit and I have plenty of time to do it all. When you flow in the Spirit, it seems like God lengthens the time. Hey, don't shake your head. Try it. You will be amazed. I think that how God stretches time so that you have enough is because when you flow in the Spirit of God yielding to Him and obeying him, then He is directing what you do. He is ordering your days. I say Lord what do I need to do next and He shows me. When you let the Lord manage your time, He is the perfect manager. You will find you have more time when He is your time manager.

Flowing in the Spirit will also bring you peace. You won't be freaked out with fear or stress. Yield more to God and you will find that all of that stuff loses its hold on you. You will know how to handle situations before they even happen. You will know what to do when the world around you seems like it is falling

apart. You will have the wisdom to handle situations and the strength to do what you need to do because you are walking with and flowing in the One who has it all in His hands.

One thing you need to know is that God will never drive you. He will lead you, but He will never drive you. There have been times in my life when I felt driven to do and driven to achieve. This caused me to overwork. I was marching along at such a fast pace that I outmarched God a lot of times because I walked right past Him and over Him and did my own thing. It was not His Spirit that was driving me. It was the devil. I always felt tired and overworked. I was so tensed up that I couldn't yield and I couldn't rest. I was doing a lot for the Lord and thought that He was the one leading me to do it all. Then I realized that wasn't so. God will not drive you. He will lead you.

Flowing in the Spirit will also help you to be a witness and to minster to those around you--your family or those you work with, the people you meet in the stores or restaurants. We are all called to minister and there is a world out there that is shaking with fear. More than ever before they recognize their need for God. You have the light in you that they are dying to find. Be the light. You can be. You have the Spirit of God in you and you have the Word of God in you. These are both life changing. Love them enough to let God use you. Flow in the Spirit and you will have just the right words to say and the right time to say

them and those words will be anointed with His Spirit and they will bring them life.

One day I was standing in line in the grocery store. God led me to witness to the man who was in line in front of me. One thing led to the other and I didn't get that done. I tried to catch him as he walked through the parking lot, but he was a lot faster than me and I lost sight of him. When I got to my car, he was parked right next to my car. I obeyed the Lord and spoke to him. God anointed and used my words and he thanked me because he said that he really needed to hear what I said. When I got into my car, it dawned me what had happened and I just sat there amazed. God knew that I would falter at obeying Him in the line. So He had this man park next to my car. What an amazing God we serve.

By far, one of the greatest blessings of flowing in the Spirit is at the end of the day you can say "Thank you Lord for my life, for what I accomplished today through you". When I was writing this chapter, I thought to myself wow what a masterpiece this book is turning out to be because Lord it is your work and I've just flowed with you. Lord what a masterpiece you have made of my life because it is your work and I have just flowed with you.

Like anything that you do in God, He has to show you how to do it. I started to tell everyone how to yield and what to do to be able to walk in the Spirit, but

then I realized that is a sad mistake. God will show you how and He will teach you how to do all of the things that He has for you to do and be. You just have to want to have them with all of your heart. I can say this though, the key to starting it is to yield to Him, yield to His love, and flow with Him.

I want to share with you what God says about all of this so that you don't just have my word for it, but you have His Word. Galatians 5:16-25 says this, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." So to sum this chapter up go to God tell Him that you want this gift, this way of life. Yield to Him and watch your world change.

To sum this section up about walking in the Spirit and yielding to Him, it will not only help you in your work for the Lord, but it will also make your whole life a whole lot easier. I want to end this chapter by a message to ministers and workers for the Lord (remember, we are all called to do this). Being able to submit to God and yield to His Spirit and flow with Him is the key to being able to watch your ministry grow.

If you don't yield and obey and seek His anointing, what you will have will be just a counterfeit. It may bring in a lot of money (things like this often do). It may reach a lot of people. But it will be ultimately something that will bind up people, not set them free. Plus you will wind up being in God's judgment instead of being blessed by Him. You will not receive a reward from the Lord. I can honestly say that if I had not learned to walk in the Spirit I would not have been able to do what I do for the Lord.

We read in 1 Corinthians 3:10-18 about the dangers of doing this. "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for

the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple we are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." If you think you are so wise, then you will not yield and submit to God and flow in His Spirit. You will not be blessed because of your disobedience.

One of the things that really bothers me is to see ministers, evangelists, workers for God that forget that their place is to yield to God and to serve as a Shepherd to God's sheep. They lift themselves up above the people. When you do that, you are not flowing in God's Spirit and His anointing because He will not anoint you if this is how you do. Their purpose is not to serve the Lord and to serve others, but they set themselves up as masters over the people.

That is why I hate the titles that people give themselves like Reverend. You may as well face it. There is only one who is Reverend and it isn't you. Some churches give titles to everyone such as Elder, or Deacon. I had an extension college the other day

that insisted that their titles be put on their ordination certificates. This is so against God's Word. Jesus is the Lord of all and King of Kings and He washed His disciple's feet and told us to do the same. That is more than a ceremony but it is also an attitude that we are to have for those we minister to. Shepherds are only as good as the love that they have for the sheep. As leaders we are to love His flock with a tender love and when we do that, we are on our knees for them, not lifting ourselves up above them.

There were times in my life when I got caught up in what others thought of me instead of what God thought of me. That is such a cruel way to live. You can never please everyone and trying to just sets you up for failure. Also, when your motive is to please others, you won't be able to walk in the spirit. Another word for being caught up in pleasing others is pride. Spiritual pride will cause you to lose the anointing or it will cause you to never get a true anointing from God. Without the anointing of God and the Word of God you have nothing and you are nothing except for man made titles that you give yourselves.

Without love you are nothing and you have nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 says, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and

though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Another thing that can happen is this. Sometimes if we aren't careful we do things for the sake of being able to feel the anointing. Instead of it being a means by which we can minister to the sheep with the utmost care, it simply becomes a high or it becomes a way that we can be recognized or a means by which we can receive money. If that happens, then we become hypocrites before God. We can get by with this for a season, but if we don't repent, we will become a stench in God's nose and if we don't repent and change, then we will eventually lose our souls.

Matthew 25:31-43 gives a parable that Jesus told. In it the Lord makes the point that what you do for His children you do for Him. In that same way, we can see that He takes it personally when you do something wrong to His children. Have you ever seen someone who looked like they prospered by being a minister, but there was an emptiness about what they did? It seemed that they were anointed, and people flocked to them, but when you heard what they had to say if you were really seeking God's Spirit and His Word, then you left feeling empty. It was because they had nothing that was sound to give you. You don't want to be like this sort of minister. If reading this has

pricked your heart, then repent. Get down on your face before God. Ask for Him to restore your real love,His love, the Shepherd's love. If you don't repent, and you continue to deceive the people, then you will make hell your home and you will be there with those you deceived. What a tragic end.

I want to add something here. If you confess to be a Christian, and what you do before people is not honorable then that is a reflection on all of God's people. If you fail to conduct your business in such a way to bring honor to the Lord, if you lie and cheat people, if you fail to treat God's people with the utmost love and respect, if you do any kind of harm to God's people then you will regret that one day. God protects and shields His people. You will personally get His attention if you mistreat His people. And this won't be good for you. You may think that you fool people, but God is no fool. He sees everything, even the intent of your heart. He sees all you do. If you do not repent, you will face eternal punishment.

Another thing that dismays me is this. Pastors and evangelists who are workers for the Lord often have to have a lot of money and elaborate houses that speak of wealth. God is looking for shepherds who are willing to go without a place of their own, someone who puts the needs of those they minister to above their own needs. He is looking for servants who are willing to serve. He is looking for shepherds who value their sheep. After all, isn't that what Jesus

did. If you want to find a real, life changing anointing in your ministry, then it starts with love, with a self-sacrificing love. I Corinthians 12:21, "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." The next chapter in the Bible is a chapter that talks about love. If you are seeking the gifts of God or the anointing of the Lord, then love the sheep.

When I said at the beginning of this chapter that the way to unlock all of these things we have talked about is by walking in the Spirit and flowing with the Lord's anointing, I really meant it. Let's review the chapters we've had so far and remember the stories you read in each chapter. We'll talk a minute about how walking in the Spirit made these things possible. We read stories about how God's plan works in our life. If we don't walk in the Spirit obeying God, we will never find out about God's plan or let it work in our life. Instead we just be about our own little empty plans.

We read stories about God's perfect timing and the difference it makes in our lives. If we don't walk in the Spirit and obey God, we will never see God's perfect timing work in our lives. We read about how God enables us to do what He calls us to do. If we aren't walking in the Spirit and obeying God, then He won't be able to enable us to do what He calls us to do because we won't even know what He is calling us to do. We read stories about how God provides for us. In many of those stories we could see that if we

don't obey God and flow with Him, He won't be able to provide for us. If we want God to provide for us, we have to be in the right place at the right time. How can that happen if we aren't obeying God? The same goes for protection. We need to yield to God's Spirit and let Him direct us. We need to listen to His voice and walk where He tells us to walk. We need to flow with His anointing and walk in His Spirit so that we can have stories of our own to tell.

We have something that is beginning to happen that is a wonderful gift of God. I can remember that when I started talking about this in 2020 and then it was just something that the Lord told me was coming, and it seemed at the time to be just a dream. This was that God was going to pour out His Spirit in a mighty outpouring even greater than Acts. Since then I have begun to see it happen. It is the last day anointing.

We see it when we hear about the college campuses where the Holy Ghost is moving miraculously and hundreds are being saved and healed, and baptized with the Holy Ghost We see it when we hear of the many that are being saved in the streets all over our country and overseas. We see it when we hear about the huge tent crusades where people can't even fit under the tents.
As times get harder, people realize that without God's help they can't make it. As times get harder, reality sts in and people admit they need God and they realize that the only way they can have Him in their

lives is if they follow Him and do it His way. When this happens, God pours out His Spirit to those who are hungry to receive. We have only begun to see this move of God. Where did I hear about this? From God's Word.

God showed me something years ago. He showed me a light that was shining in a room. The room was totally bright and you couldn't see that light shining. Then gradually the room began to get darker. As the room grew darker, the light got brighter. Then when the room got totally dark so that there was no light in it at all, that light took on a brilliance that was amazing.

When things are going good, people can't see the light of God's Word and of His Spirit. As the world gets darker, people need that light. When the world is as dark as it is now, there is only one light that is shining and that light is God's light. God's light is shining with a great brilliance because of the darkness of these days. Just like light draws things, His light is drawing all men. Because of the darkness they see their need for this light and they are coming. All over the world, they are running to that light.

Chapter 12
Stories about Taking Authority Over Satan and How to Bind Him

I can honestly say that I started learning about how to bind the devil when I first got saved. I was coming out of a life where addiction and alcohol bound my life, and so did the sin that had filled my life. The devil had controlled my life for so long. I had to get delivered to be able to get saved. God had to set me free so that I could come to Him. God had to push back the devil so that I could see Him. That may sound a little strange but that is what happened, and if you think about it, that probably happened to you as well.

Then after I got saved there was a time in my life when the devil would literally nearly steal my life away. He was determined to stop me before I could get started on what God had for me to do. I got intimidated by all that he was doing. Then I learned who I was in God and I learned about the authority that God gave me over the devil. I learned that his place is under my feet. I learned that I was given the power that I needed to have to be able to fight the devil. I learned that I was able to fight the devil not only for myself but for the ministry and for others that I loved. As I took authority and saw it work, it encouraged my faith and I was able to do it even more. The devil no longer controlled my life, but the Word of God and the Spirit of God controlled my life.

But the battle wasn't over for good. The devil still tries to sneak in and take control. When that happens, God will let me know and together we stand against the enemy who loses every time.

I learned a huge lesson about the power that God's anointing and His Word gives us to stand against the devil when I learned not to be intimidated by him. I spent a couple of years during the summers working with Teen Challenge. It is a national group that has homes where young people can go to get deliverance from drugs and alcohol and all kinds of bondage. Many of them came from big cities. They had been involved in all kinds of issues. They were bound with all kinds of devils.

There was one girl there who was demon possessed. How did I know? Because of the evil I felt coming from her and when that devil would start moving in her, she would talk with a man's voice. She really hated me. One night she was trying to leave. I was a little stupid. I hadn't worked there long.

I stood at the head of the stairs to stop her. This made her really angry. She tried to push me down the stairs. In the natural this was a bad situation because she was about three times my size. She would rush at me and put her hands out to push me, and it was like she hit an invisible wall that I had around me protecting me. She would say in a man's voice, "Why can't I touch you? Why can't I touch you?" Now I don't mind

telling you at first I was more than a little scared. I was until I figured out what was going on. I realized God was supernaturally protecting me. Then I confess I got a little cocky. I was dancing around saying, “Na na na na boo boo you can’t touch me.” I realized at that moment that the devil wasn’t something that I had to fear. This changed my life.

The devil still tried to stop me. Another time came when I had gotten into a church that looked like it was a good church, but it was a cult. They believed a lot of things that were wrong, but it wasn’t evident at first. They were a very friendly bunch of people. I started going there and was even playing the piano for their services. God sent a couple of people who tried to tell me that I needed to get out of there, but I wouldn’t listen. I really regretted it later.

One day I went by the church to practice the piano. I tried to open the door. It would open about a foot and would go no further. I could put my head around it to see that there wasn’t anything keeping it from opening. I tried to slam against it with all of my weight to open it. It wouldn’t budge. When I realized that God was holding that door shut, I left there that day and I was determined to get out of the church. I felt like I should go to a service and stand up before them and tell them what had happened and that I should tell them that God had showed me that it was a cult. I did this. Then they told me that I had blasphemed against God’s Spirit and I would never be

able to be saved and because of this I would never be able to go to heaven.

Now I knew that this was wrong, but it stuck in my spirit. There was a demon that was loosed against me and I couldn't get free from it. I started to think that what they said was true. I kept on serving God though. I started thinking that even though I couldn't get to heaven I loved Him enough that I would still serve Him. Boy, isn't that thinking messed up. But when the devil binds up your thinking, it isn't very sound. That was a time when I struggled the most. That was until I met Bishop Goad in that tent meeting that changed my life. One of the first conversations that he had with me was about who I was in God. That truth and the anointing behind his words set me free and I was delivered from that devil who bound me. The truth given with the anointing can set you free from the devil.

There have been other times when the devil would bind me. I remember one time that I had been going through a battle with my health and I couldn't find the cause for it in the natural. I was in a service where the Holy Ghost anointing was moving and the preacher said, "I saw a devil leaving. It came from right over there" and he pointed in my direction. At that moment I realized that my problem wasn't physical but it was spiritual. A demonic spirit was binding my health. The anointing in the service broke me free from that spirit. I was set free and my healing

soon came. I am not saying that I was possessed with a devil, but I am saying that a devil was binding me to keep me from being healed.

Sometimes what we do, how we talk, whether or not we have sin in our life, whether or not we read the Bible on a regular basis, how often we obey God can all affect how much the devil can harass us. These are things we can do to give him power over our lives. Also, if we don't know about how we can take authority over satan, it leaves us vulnerable. In other words there are things that we do or fail to do that put us in the devil's territory. Another thing that can put us in his territory and under his feet instead of his being under ours is fear. If we are afraid of the devil, then we can't take authority over him.

We have been given authority over the devil. We have been given the right to bind him. Why is that so important? Especially in today's world, the devil is doing a lot of harm. He is showing himself to be strong because he knows that his time is nearing the end. God will soon put him in his place and take his kingdom from him. We as children of God can take authority over him and put him where he belongs. Romans 16:20 says, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." This scripture tells us that the devil's place is under our feet. We will talk about many verses coming up that talk about this. There is something that I plainly see. The

church has been given more power to take authority over satan in these last days. I have been standing against the devil for years. What used to take days of interceding is done today with a simple prayer. Our authority is increasing. The power that we have as God's children is increasing. We are not going to leave this world with a struggle, but we are going out with amazing victory over the powers of satan.

Our ministry has learned a lot about the authority that we can take over satan. We learned it because of the battle that we have gone through. Church, we have been given the power and authority to bind the devil. We can bind him when he is coming against us personally. We can bind him when he is coming against us as a church or ministry. We can bind him when he is coming against those that we are ministering to. We can bind him when he is coming against our family or our friends. We can take authority over him in behalf of those who are too weak to be able to take authority themselves. We can take authority over him in behalf of those who have not been taught how to do this themselves.

Here is an important note. It is very important to teach all those under our care about the authority that God has given the church and about how to bind the devil. It will make a big difference in their lives when they know these things. It will make a great difference in their lives if they don't know these things. It may enable them to make heaven their home when they

know the tricks of the enemy and how to stand against Him.

Ephesians 1:5-22 tells us about the authority that God gives the church. “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

We are His body, we are the fullness of Him who fills all in all. He has placed us above the principalities and powers of satan. We have been given authority over Him. Go back and read this scripture again and

again. Think about it. Take into your heart and mind and spirit.

The Bible tells us that what we bind is bound. Matthew 18:18 says, “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” We have been given the power to be able to bind the powers of satan. Here on earth we can bind the devil.

We have seen many times changes that happen when we unite in one mind and one accord and we take the authority that God has given the church. We see the evidence that he has been bound because of the freedom that comes. We see the evidence that he has been bound because of the change that happens in the situation that was binding us. Or when we see God’s promises explode and we know that what was binding them from coming about was broken. Or when we see changes in the lives of those we are interceding for as the devil is bound that is controlling their lives. We see deliverance come to their lives as they are set free.

There have been so many times when kids have come to the school who were bound with spirits of rebellion, or bound with spirits of anxiety and fear, or who were bound with spirits of depression. Sometimes physical things can cause people to be bound with these things. But more often than not it is the devil who has sent demons to bind them. How do

I know that is true? Because when we bind the spirits that are binding them, and they are delivered, they are set free from these things.

You see the devil can't possess God's people but he can send spirits to hover around them to bind them. They influence how they feel and think, just like the devil that bound me after I left that church. I couldn't see the truth that I could be set free. When we accept that we are depressed, then we can't be delivered from it. When we realize that it is something that the devil sent to bind us and we stand against him and bind him up and take the authority over him that God has given the church, then we can be delivered. We can be set free.

One such example of deliverance is a student at our school. This is his story. His battle started in the public school when a teacher bullied him. That is right. I said a teacher. This teacher would constantly put him down and call him stupid. He began to go through a battle with social anxiety. He transferred and came to our school. By then this anxiety had developed into a physical problem. When his anxiety would start, he would have severe stomach problems. This caused him to not be able to go far from the bathroom.

One day he came into the office and he told me that he couldn't stand it any more. He was to the place where he couldn't come to school. He couldn't go

anywhere. He couldn't do his school work. This thing was paralyzing him. It was going to have to go.

God showed me that it was a spirit that was binding him. The Holy Ghost kicked in and I began to pray in tongues. I could tell from the way that He was speaking that He was binding that devil. I obeyed the Lord and every time that the Lord led me to pray for him, I did. God delivered him and set him free from this bondage. I found out later that he had been bound with this thing for 5 years. God set him free. He worked with construction for a while with his dad. The last time I spoke to him he was working at the wellness center as a life coach helping others win the victory.

There have been many kids who have been delivered from spirits of depression. I have had several through the years tell me later that they had been on the verge of committing suicide but they found deliverance. I have even had kids that were bound up so that they couldn't learn. I am convinced that there is a physical ADHD, but there is also a spiritual one caused when a spirit of the devil binds them up so that they can't think or concentrate or learn. How do I know this? I have watched them be delivered. God gives us authority over the devil and we can use it and watch Him deliver those whom we love.

We are given authority over the devil by the Word of God. Here are some other things that gives us

authority. We find it in the name of Jesus. Mark 16:17 says, “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.” We take authority by the blood of Jesus which covers us. Revelation 12:11a, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb….” That is why it is important to always confess your sins and receive forgiveness so that your sins are under the blood. If that isn’t so, then you are vulnerable to the devil’s power.

There is another gift that is a powerful tool that we are given that enables us to put the devil under our feet where he belongs. That is the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Speaking in tongues is a part of that gift. I have had many times when the Holy Ghost would begin praying through me and I would know that He was binding the devil and taking authority over him by how He was praying. I knew that when I was done with that prayer that the devil was bound. When the Holy Ghost prays to bind the devil, you can know that He gets the job done.

Here are some scriptures that talk about the authority that the church has over satan. Luke 10:17-20, “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." There are several things we can read here. One is the power that we can find in the name of Jesus. Another is that the devil was subject to God's workers. Another is that we can tread over all of the power of the enemy and nothing shall hurt us. Another important thing that we find in this scripture is that most of all we need to rejoice because our names are written in heaven.

Acts 26:16-18 tells the story of Paul when Jesus spoke to him at his conversion on the road to Damascus. Jesus said, "But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Through Christ we can turn people from the power of Satan unto God.

James 4:7 gives us a key to how all of this works. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." When we submit to God, then we can resist the devil and he will flee from us. Ephesians 6:10-17 talks about the armor that we have

been given that enables us to stand against satan. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Isaiah 14:12-19 says this. “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake

kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet."

To understand what this passage is talking about you have to know that the devil started out as being one of the chief angels who was in charge of music. (No wonder he uses music to bind people. Stay away from the devil's music. I don't listen to anything except for Gospel music. Why listen to the things that get you down when God's music lifts you up?) He got an idea that he wanted to be over everything. He led some of the angels in a rebellion against God. That didn't turn out well for him. He is a loser and he will stay a loser. His end will be to be bound in a pit (in hell) forever. And when he is there, we will just narrowly glance over at him and say is that the one that caused so much trouble. He will be "as a carcase trodden under feet.".

Revelation 20:1-3 tells us more about how satan will be bound. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him

into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

I want to close this with a prayer that Paul prayed found in Romans 16:20, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." We have been given power of satan. We can take authority over him when he messes with our lies. We can take authority over him when he messes with the people we love. We can take authority over him when he messes with our churches or our ministries. We don't have to put up with him. We can rise up over him when he starts with us and we can put him where he belongs. Under our feet.

I want to caution you about something here. There was a time when I was obsessed with worrying about what the devil was doing. I spent more time talking about what he was doing then I talked about how God was moving. Don't praise the devil. Don't constantly think about him and what he is doing. Don't concentrate on him. Instead think about God and praise God for the victory He gives you over satan. Talk about the victory you have found in Him. Praise the Lord instead of concentrating on giving glory to the devil by talking about what he is doing. Praise will unlock victory. When you praise the Lord, the devil is defeated. Praise the Lord.

Chapter 13
God's Victory in the Battles

You can't have a chapter about victory without first talking about the battles. There are many different reasons why we have battles. I believe that the number one reason we have battles is that we fail to yield and obey God. That is sort of like standing in the middle of the highway and being surprised when we get run over. We often blame God for our battles when it is our own stubborn fault that we have them.

Anther reason why we go through battles is this crazy world that we live in. It is a mess. When you live in a messy world, it is inevitable that part of the mess gets on you. But when you walk with God and yield to Him, when you allow His Spirit and His Word to strengthen you, and you allow Him to guide you through it, then you will be able to overcome it all with victory.

Another reason why we have a battle is because we have an enemy, the devil, who tries to destroy God's children. He hates us. He is a loser and we are mighty in God through the tearing down of his strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4 says, "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" He is under our feet. When we are obedient and we walk with God and we fill up with his Word and His Spirit, we have been given power to bind him. We

don't have to be afraid of the devil. We don't have to put up with his junk either. When I feel the devil just starting to mess in my business I yield to the Holy Ghost who prays through me in the gift of tongues and God's Spirit binds him up before he even starts. When I am not mindful of this or when I am too busy doing my own thing to listen to God, then he sneaks in and does his mess. That is one reason why we have battles. We don't take the time to identity that he is messing with us and we fail to take the authority over the devil that God through His Word has given us. Another reason why we have battles is because we are flesh. We are not perfect. We make mistakes. We step into traps the devil has set for us.

I can hear you say, "Wow, we thought that the title of this chapter is *Victory."* Like I mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, if you don't have battles you would not have victories. I mentioned at the beginning of this book about how I had come through a hard time dealing with the death of one of our students in our Christian Academy and then another student got shot.

I don't mind telling you those things rocked my faith. It was a hard thing to go through. I asked the Lord why this happened. I don't have children of my own and most of the students who come to our school feel like my own children in a way. I guess you could say that I sort of adopt them in a manner of speaking. I don't take them away from their parents. That isn't

what I am at all saying, but I do partner with their parents and each one of them has a place in my heart. When they go through things, I feel what they go through. I asked God why did you send them here so that I have to go through this struggle with my faith. I guess to sum it up my spoiled little flesh side was showing.

God showed me some things that burst my little spoiled bubble. He showed me that He had sent her here for us to help her. She hadn't been in our school for long at all when she was shot. The second time that she was here I walked into the room where she and her mom were sitting and I sat down and just as I sat down the Holy Ghost started using me to talk to her mother to minister to her. The result of that conversation was that she accepted Jesus as her Savior and dedicated her life to Him. This was only a couple of weeks before the shooting.

I asked her mom later if she could have gone through watching her daughter go through all of this if she had not had the Lord. She answered that there was no way she could have gone through this alone. She has held onto her new found relationship with God and her faith is holding her. She is holding to her Shepherd’s arm and He is holding her.

The scripture says that men’s hearts fail them for lack of knowledge. Sometimes things happen because we haven't learned to listen to God's voice and obey him.

Then when things happen we don't know that God can heal us. We don't have faith that he can do this because we haven't heard that He can. We don't know about the power of our prayers because we aren't accustomed to pray. We haven't seen God answer our prayers so our faith in our prayers is weak.

When this girl first came to the school, she walked under our hedge of protection. She walked with people who know the power of prayers. We have shared her prayer request with our extension colleges. We have over 40 colleges in many countries. They shared her prayer request with all of their pastors who are taking those classes. Those pastors shared it with their congregations who joined in to pray for her. I am sure that it went out even further. We also shared her prayer request with our friends and with several ministers in our local area who shared it with their congregations. Plus we are praying for her at our church and the staff of the school is praying for her as well.

Why am I telling you all of this? Remember this part started with me saying why God do I have to go through this battle with my faith. Why did you send her here? There are a couple of things to get from this story. Why are we able to have the faith to pray for her? We know about healing because He has healed many of those who work with the school and ministry and many of those who are praying for her. We are able to help encourage their faith. If we had never had

a battle with sickness, then we wouldn't have been healed and we wouldn't have the faith to pray for others.

Many of those who are praying for her have been sick to the point of nearly dying and God healed us. Why are we able to encourage them? Because we have been through the storms and we have seen how God has watched over us and kept us and given how He gave us the victory even over the hardest of circumstances that we were facing. Why were we able to encourage them in their relationship with God even when they were going through a struggle. It is because we have been through things that made us think that God had turned His back on us. Things that made us think why would we have to go through this if He loved us.

Even through these things, we felt the Shepherd's arm around us holding us, loving us, guiding us through it all to find the victory that can only come in Him. Why do we have the sort of love to be willing and able to love them through their battle? It is because of His love that has kept us through our own battles. The reason why we can help them to find victory is because we have gone through our own battles.

If we never went through the battles, how would we be able to help others find victory and in this crazy world we definitely need to learn how to help others find victory. We can be spoiled when we go through

something or we can say, “God I thank you, I praise you for helping me overcome. It is through overcoming this battle that my faith was built. It is through overcoming that my trust is restored and I am strengthened. It is through overcoming that I learned how tears of mourning can be turned to tears of joy as I’m climbing the mountain and I realize that I have reached the top because you held me and lifted me up.” When that happens, then and only then can we encourage others.

Paul says it best in His Word. I have used this scripture before in this book, but I want to repeat it here so that you are sure to hear it. It is found in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” When you are weak, then is when you say God be my strength and you learn for the first time just how strong you can be in Him, because you aren’t relying on your own strength but you are relying on His. He will be your strength, and you will have the strength to do whatever He tells you to do.

I am adding a note to the end of this story. Matter of fact, I am adding it right before the second printing of this book and it has been a while since I wrote the

book. I mentioned that at the time I was writing it she was fighting for her life. Her wounds were so severe that she had to have several surgeries just to stop her internal bleeding. I am happy to report though at the time that I am writing this addition for the second printing that she is doing well. One of her friends told me the other day that she had gone out to eat with them.

She is truly a miracle girl. She has held on to her faith in God even when doctors told her that she would not live. She gives God the credit for keeping her alive and for bringing her to the point where she is now. She has been a light to everyone who knows what she has been through and they know that God is real because of the miracles He has done for her, and He has done several of them. She wants to do something for the Lord and I believe that she will do amazing things for her Savior who has kept her. She has a strong faith and she is walking with her hand in His. That is a wonderful combination and a combination that God will use mightily.

This is a note that I am writing to her. I wanted to be sure to put it in the book. *Katelynn, I am so very, very, very glad that you came our way. Knowing you and seeing how God miraculously brought you out of the valley you were in has encouraged my faith in a way that few things have. With the help of your faithful friends and with the help of Jesus, you have been positive through everything you have gone*

through. God has given you a great strength to overcome. You have said that you want to do something for the Lord and I believe that you will do amazing things for Him. Why? Because the whole perspective of your life has changed and He is your focus. One day you will look back at all you have been through and you will say God really did turn it all out for good. Katelynn, it is a blessing to know you and I am so glad that you are in our lives and you are a part of the school. You are truly a miracle. Not only because of all God has done for you but also for the person you have become through it all.

When we learn that all things work for our good no matter how terrible they are, then we know that nothing can destroy us. Matter of fact, I have learned that the things that I have been through that were the hardest things turned out to work for the greatest good in my life. With a God like that how can we lose. What a mighty awesome God we serve. We are guaranteed the victory when we walk with Him and we walk holding to His Word and to His hand.

So when you can sit at the bedside of someone you love and you know that if God doesn't take over, they will die and in the midst of that you can find His sweet peace because you know that if they live or if they die they will find His victory, then that is what true victory means. That is what victory brings to your life. AMEN

Not long ago I thanked the Lord that we haven't had to go through any great battles lately. The Lord reminded me that just a year ago we had lost Bishop Goad. His son had nearly died several times. His daughter died. I have some health issues. We were restructuring the ministry. I trustfully, honestly and sincerely can say that I haven't stopped to think about all the battles we had been through because God had given us such a sweet victory in the middle of the battles that I hadn't even thought of them as being battles. He had reminded me of all that so I could see how sweet that victory had been.

We have talked about how all things work together for our good. We serve a God that is so powerful that everything, even the worst of things, will work out for our good. I say this again. With all of that going on how can we lose? How can we fail to have victory? We are winners. 2 Corinthians 2:14a says, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ. When does it say that He causes us to triumph? He doesn't say that He causes us to triumph just when things are going good. He doesn't say that He causes us to triumph when we are on the mountain tops. It says that He ALWAYS causes us to triumph in Him. We are winners in God. We are not losers.

When I think of how God gives us victory, I think of Levi Horton. Levi was a student in our school. He started in the school in middle school. We had known

about him from the time he was little. When Levi was about 18 months old, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. His third brain surgery blinded him. At 6 years old he went totally blind. The doctors told him that he would not live to be 9 years old. We have watched him come close to death, but the Lord would always deliver him. I asked him when he was in high school what faith meant to him. He answered, "It means waking up in the morning."

His battle to survive has been what has caused him to be a really great child of God. He just turned 25. He has been determined to win over every battle. Winning battles is just a way of life for him. He has a tremendous faith and a tremendous victory. He is preaching, and writing songs and singing. He has a powerful ministry. Keep in mind that he is totally blind.

He has not let his blindness or his physical limitations hinder him. They have actually become his strength. God has used his weaknesses to make him strong. All of this has made him to be a very special fellow. He has found victory through it all. For example, he had a stroke that left him where he can hardly use one arm. He plays the drums and when you hear him, he plays like a professional drummer. He plays them with one hand, but you would never know that when you hear him. He has learned to golf and he is really good at it. They beat on the pole at the hole and he can hear it and hit the hole. If someone tells him that he can't do

something because he is blind, he has learned that this isn't so and he goes ahead and does it with God's help. That is what victory means.

Another student we have had in school is Gracie Tate. She has a battle with migraines. Sometimes they will cause her to not even be able to walk. They sometimes cause her not to be able to speak or see. She is a lot like Levi. She will not let these get her down or stop her. She is learning how to allow God to be her strength in the middle of her weaknesses. I know that we will hear in the future things that Gracie accomplishes for the Lord. That is what victory is all about.

We read in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 something that Paul wrote. "And he (God) said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

When we are strong ourselves we will never see God's strength working in us. When we are weak, that is when we ask God to be our strength and we learn to rely on that strength. Then is when we can be supernatural workers for the Lord. That is what Paul learned. It was only when he became weak that he

became strong enough to go through all that he had to go through to serve God. I for one am very glad that he learned how to become strong in God because the Lord used him to write most of the New Testament. Think of how many people whose lives were changed by reading the words he wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit. You were probably one of those. Keep in mind that he wrote those words over 2,000 years ago. Imagine how many people he inspired with those words down through time.

I had mentioned earlier how I stayed with my aunt when she was dying with cancer. I can say that this time influenced my life in a powerful way. It isn't the easy times and the easy things that we grow through that shape our lives in the most powerful ways. It is the hard times, and the battles, it is the times when God miraculously delivers us from the struggles that change our lives the greatest. The month that I stayed with her was one of those times.

When she didn't even have strength to drink water on her own, I had to dip a straw in water and put it in her mouth one drip at a time. Each time she drank, she praised the Lord. She could barely raise up her hand, but she would do so and say "Praise you, Lord thank you, Jesus." Death could not hold her. Death could not destroy her faith. Death could not steal her relationship with the One that she had followed for most of her life. Death had no power over her. 1 Corinthians 15, 54-55 says, "So when this corruptible

shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" I watched as death was swallowed up in victory. The victory that she met death with changed my life forever, and it showed me just how much victory we have in God that even death can't steal it away.

There was an extremely wealthy business man who lived in Chicago during the time of the Chicago fire. His name was Horatio Spafford. He had a wife and 4 daughters. He lost his business in the fire. Not long afterwards his family was going to sail to England. He had something that delayed him from being able to sail on the same ship as his family. Their ship sank and only his wife was saved. As he sailed to join his wife, he asked the captain of his ship to let him know when their ship passed by the place where his daughters died. When the ship reached this spot, he took out a pen and wrote the words to the song *It Is Well With My Soul*. When you walk with God, He will help you overcome whatever comes against you. You can find victory over the worst unimaginable things. He can give you peace where you can say through it all *It Is Well With My Soul.*

Here are the lyrics to It Is Well With My Soul.
It is well, With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
A song in the night, oh my soul!

That is victory that you can find when you walk with the Lord and you allow His Spirit and His Word to rule in your life. I am not saying that you just become a mummy and you don't feel anything. I am saying

that what you feel is God's love, His peace, His hope, His strength that will carry you through the worst times. This is the victory that you find when you keep your mind filled with his Word and the promises of His Word will keep you even when you think that you will destroyed by the circumstances around you. This is the victory that you can find when you walk with the Lord and you know that He will keep His promise when He says everything will work out to your good no matter how terrible it is. When you walk with Him and have your hand in His you feel His precious love and you trust Him to get you through it, then you know that you will have victory.

Often the times when the victory is greatest are the times when we win over ourselves and our mess. I remember a time when I thought that I had arrived. I thought that I had it all worked out. I settled there and stopped growing. That was when God in no uncertain terms made me come face to face with myself. I was filled with stinking thinking and I was like what Jesus called whited sepulchers with dead men's bones. If you think that you have arrived, I have news for you. As long as you have your flesh, there will always be room for improvement. How we overcome things by learning to walk in the Spirit instead of walking in the flesh is the only way that we can make it through the things that we face. The only way that you can overcome your flesh is by yielding it to God and yielding to His Spirit that is inside of you. Let Him carry you. He will help you overcome your mess.

Through these pages you have read about my weaknesses and how God changed them to be His strength. You have read how God turned times of need and blessed them and turned them into times of plenty. You have read how times of mourning and death were turned into dancing and joy.. You have read how in the middle of the battles we held to God's Word and to His anointing and how He strengthened us. How He provided us His Word and the promises that He gave us that He spoke to our hearts. Because of His promises and His Word we were able to rise up over the enemy and how the Lord even did miracles to keep us. You read about how when the battle nearly destroyed us, that God moved bringing us the victory. You have read how when the waves of the storm broke over our heads, Jesus walked out on the water and reached down His hands as we were about to sink. You have read how God turned times when we were in need into times of plenty. How in times of famine we were fed not only physically but spiritually. You have seen that when there was no way to go on in the natural, God miraculously moved in the supernatural making crooked places straight. You have read how when the enemy came against us to destroy us even trying to take our lives, how God lifted up a standard and His hedge was about us.

You have read about how God enabled a little group of people who had little strength of their own to carry the Gospel to the world. All we had going for us was

a love of God and His people. We had a desire to obey Him. We had a willingness to walk on the water if that was where He led us, and our determination to do that came from a great love for His people, the sheep of His pastures.

I want to remind you (again) that God is no respecter of persons. If you are willing and obedient, you eat of the good of the land. You will see these same things. Victory will be yours. Just don't quit. Don't give up. There have been so many times when the devil tried to get us to quit. He is sneaky. He knows that you won't stop. What he tries to do is to settle you into a neutral position where you aren't pushing to obey the Lord. He is trying to get you settled into a compromise. He would attack our health, our minds, our finances, and He would make it to the place where we couldn't see how that we could go on, so that we thought about stopping pushing to go on. Now on this other side of the battle we are ever so glad that we kept on going.

One of the things that kept us going was the little glimpses that God would give us to remind us of what was ahead. Another thing that kept us pressing on was that if we gave up, it might be just before our victory came. We would be climbing up that mountain so steep that we didn't see any way that we could climb it. Then we would realize that we were at the top. We almost quit when just around that next bend we could see the top. Don't quit. Don't settle.

Keep pushing. Keep climbing. When you do that, you know that eventually, with God's help, you will reach the top. My words to you, if you are in a valley, is don't stop until you reach the top of the mountain. It will come and it is just ahead. Victory is yours and victory is sweet. You have God's Word for it.

Here are some more scriptures that talk about the victory we can find in God and through His Spirit and by His Word. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul said it best in Romans 8:36-39, "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The victory is ours and the victory is just ahead. Hold on. Don't give up. Don't stop marching on. Don't let the battle cause you just to coast instead of pushing on ahead. If you quit now, you may be quitting just before the victory comes. Press on ahead. Don't try to do it on your own, but let God's Spirit and His Word carry you. Rest in the arms of your Shepherd. Run to Him when the battle gets rough. Yield to Him and He

will carry you. You are more than a conqueror through Him. Victory is ahead.

I want to sum up this chapter by saying this. I love to climb into a bed that is made up. All the covers are straight and they aren't balled all up in a ball. The only way to climb into a made up bed is if when you get up in the morning, you make up your bed. What you get out of life is like that. What you get out of God is like that as well. You get out of it what you put into it. God's Word won't work in your life unless you read it and study it and take it into your heart. You won't reap God's blessings if you don't obey Him. You won't find a relationship with God if you don't spend time with Him. You won't receive healing if you don't seek it. You won't receive the gifts of God if you don't seek them.

If you want to possess the blessings of God, then you have to do your part. Galatians 6:7-9 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

There is coming a time just ahead in the not so very distant future when we will see our Savior in the clouds. We will see the one who laid down His life to welcome us home. We will be caught up to be with

Him. Then we will stand before Him. We will hear him say these words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” AMEN. It will be worth it all.

Until that day collect your stories of victory. Collect your stories of the things you have overcome. Tell them to others. It will encourage their faith and encourage your own. Plus it will give God the glory that He rightly owns.

Closing

I want to repeat here something that I wrote in the introduction of this book. *There is another reason why I am writing this book. Sometimes authors will write about the wonderful things that they have done. They do that so that others will think they are great. That is definitely not the reason why I am writing this. When you read my stories, you will see my weaknesses, the stupid things I've done, how without God's help I am not able to get out of the rain as the old saying goes. You will see my weaknesses. But at the same time you see my weaknesses you will see how God in His love and grace causes my weaknesses to become great strength. His strength. Then you will know how God can become your strength as well. That is why I am writing my stories. So that you will see how God will enable you to do what He calls you to do and you will know that you can march out in faith to obey Him. Then you will have stories of your own.*

I really believe with all of my heart that God is anointing this book to change the lives of those who read it. I believe that it will lead many to find salvation for real, and to know what that means. I believe that it will help many to find God's plan for their lives. I believe that it will encourage the faith of many who are waiting for miracles that God has promised them as they realize that God has a perfect timing. Sometimes we just need to hold on, but His

promises are coming. I believe that He will use this book to empower you, to enable you to rise up and make a difference in your world. And He will give you the courage and strength to be able to do so.

I believe that He will build your faith so that with victory you can go through the hard times that we are facing. You will know how God can provide for you. Because of that, you won't be afraid. You will know how God can protect you and shield you. You will know that you walk with angels. You will know how the Spirit of God can move in services, and you will not be satisfied if that isn't so. You will know that God can heal and that He will heal you. You will also know beyond any shadow of doubt that you can find victory in God, that He will lift you up over the battle and He will always, always, always cause you to triumph.

Remember this (and I've said it a bunch of times). God is no respecter of persons. What He did for me, He will do for you. If He did it for those who have served him that I mentioned in this book, He will do it for you. Just remember obedience is the key to unlock the miracles of God. Isaiah 1:19 says, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."

You can have as much of God that you want. If you want a tea cupful, that is all that you will get. If you want bucket loads, that is what you will get. But if

you want truck loads, that is what God will give you. You will get back what you desire in your heart. Walk with Him. Fill up on His word and with His Spirit. Let Him empower you. and obey Him. If you do, then you will soon be telling amazing stories of your own. AMEN.

Here is a glimpse of something that I want to close this book with. God spoke to me about His stories. He reminded me of the stories in His Word that go back to the beginning of time. Stories that we read over and over and over because we cherish what they mean to us. Then He showed me glimpses of the people who have lived in the past who tell stories of the wonders of the Lord and what He has done and what He has meant to them. From now all the way to the writing of Revelations can you imagine how many stories that people have told about the greatness of our God. What an awesome God we serve. He is well able to keep you, to guide you, to protect you, to fill you with His Spirit, to enable you to serve Him. He is well able to give you stories of your own to tell.